

Still
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goal!

W e e k l y




Vol. 7 No. 06 Monday 21st March 2011

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PHOTO: STEVE STAREK

SEARCH FOR VICTORY'S NEW COACH HOTS UP WHO'S THE BOSS?



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All But Over For The Victory

By David Manuca

MELBOURNE Victory have suffered another loss in the Asian Champions League going down 2-1 to Jeju United in-front of a very low crowd of 4,825 at Etihad Stadium in Melbourne.

It's Melbourne's second loss in the Champions League from just two games, and their fourth straight loss in all competitions.

Victory took the lead after the half-hour mark thanks to an own goal, but less than five minutes later Jeju equalized through Hyun-Beom Park before Hyun-Ho Lee sealed the winner for the Koreans with six minutes left.

It was Mehmet Durakovic's first game in charge of the Victory after taking over for the remainder of the ACL campaign following Ernie Merrick's sacking last Saturday.

Durakovic promised he would play more attacking and entertaining football focusing on short slick passing, and that was evident as Melbourne's performance was much better than against Gamba a fortnight ago.

Jeju dominated the first half hour of the match but against the run of play Melbourne took the lead. Adrian Leijer intercepted the ball in the mid-field and passed it off to Tom Pondeljak who played it to Archie Thompson.

Thompson then played the ball out right to Danny Allsopp with the big striker faking a shot and cutting onto his left foot before unleashing a curling left foot effort which took a deflection and went in.

Even though the ball appeared to be heading wide, the goal was given to Danny Allsopp rather than being recorded as an own goal by Jeju.

The lead didn't last long though as Jeju equalised just four minutes later. Victory's defence crumbled once again from a set-piece as Isaka Cernak failed to clear a corner with Hyun-Beom Park there to tap home an easy goal.



Man in the Middle: Jeju United's Kim Eun Jung (18) is surrounded by Victory's Isaka Cernak and Danny Allsopp. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

Tom Pondeljak won a corner by forcing a good save from Jeju goalkeeper Ho-Jun Kim right on the stroke of half time. From the corner Marvin Angulo and Kevin Muscat played a great one-two with Angulo crossing the ball in to Leijer who was just offside.

Melbourne could consider themselves lucky to head in to the break on level terms with the visitors dominating much of the first half.

The second half saw more of the same as Jeju created several chances, with Melbourne needing some inspiration up-front.

And that came when Durakovic brought on Costa Rican Carlos Hernandez in place of his compatriot Marvin Angulo. He made an instant impact on the match as he played a great ball through to Archie Thompson who beat the defender but his toe-poke rolled just past the post.

In the 69th minute Hernandez played a ball through to Danny Allsopp who then back-heeled the

ball into the path of Thompson but he blasted his shot way over the bar.

Two minutes later Melbourne had another great chance when Allsopp picked up the ball in the area after Matthew Kemp's work down the left hand side but he fired his shot across the face of the goal.

Just one minute after that Jeju came close to making Melbourne pay for not taking their chances, but Santos' header from a free-kick flashed past the far post.

Kevin Muscat had a chance to put Melbourne in the lead as well when he found himself with space on the edge of the area but he was quickly closed down and could only fire his strike over the cross-bar.

Jeju eventually did find the back of the net though just six minutes from time after Hyun-Ho Lee controlled brilliantly before coolly putting his shot past Petkovic.

The Koreans held on to their slender lead to take the three

points back with them and leaving Melbourne's 2011 Asian Champions League campaign hanging by a thread.

In the other match in Group E Tianjin Teda got a suprise victory over Gamba Osaka defeating the Japanese side 2-1 in China. Chen Tao gave Tianjin the lead mid-way through the first half but Gamba were back level just five minutes later thanks to Keun-Ho Lee.

Tianjin though took back the lead at the start of the second half thanks to a penalty from Cao Yang and held on to their lead to move top of the Group.

Gamba Osaka are second on three points level with Jeju United and Melbourne Victory remain last without a single point.

Sydney FC's match against Kashima Antlers was postponed due to the Tsunami in Japan and will now take place at a later date to be confirmed.

In the other Group H match Suwon Bluewings produced a stun-



Durakovic picks up where Merrick left off. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

ning performance thrashing Chinese side Shanghai Shenua 4-0 in Korea.

Tae-Goon Ha got Suwon off to a brilliant start netting in the 6th minute before Jang-Eun Oh added a second right on the stroke of half-time. Tae-Goon scored another two in the second half to secure his hattrick and Suwon a 4-0 victory.

That win for them shoots them to the top of the group on four points, with Kashima, Sydney and Shanghai all tied for second on one point, but Sydney and Kashima now have a game in hand.

Matchday Three of the Asian Champions League sees Tianjin Teda take on the Melbourne Victory in China and Jeju United taking on Gamba Osaka in Korea in Group E.

Whilst in Group H Shanghai Shenua travel to Australia to face Sydney FC and Suwon Bluewings will face Kashima Antlers in Korea.

ACL Details

Group A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 SEPAHAN (IRN)	2	2	0	0	7	2	5	6
2 AL HILAL (KSA)	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3
3 AL GHARAF (QAT)	2	0	1	1	0	1	-1	1
4 AL JAZIRA (UAE)	2	0	1	1	5	4	-1	1
AL GHARAF (QAT) v AL HILAL (KSA) 0 - 1								
SEPAHAN (IRN) v AL JAZIRA (UAE) 5 - 1								
05 Apr SEPAHAN (IRN) v AL GHARAF (QAT)								
05 Apr AL HILAL (KSA) v AL JAZIRA (UAE)								

Group B	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 AL NASSR (KSA)	2	1	1	0	4	3	1	4
2 AL SADD (QAT)	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4
3 PAKHTAKOR (UZB)	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1
4 ESTEGHLAL (IRN)	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1
AL NASSR (KSA) v ESTEGHLAL (IRN) 2 - 1								
AL SADD (QAT) v PAKHTAKOR (UZB) 2 - 1								
06 Apr AL SADD (QAT) v AL NASSR (KSA)								
06 Apr ESTEGHLAL (IRN) v PAKHTAKOR (UZB)								

Group C	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 AL ITTIHAD (KSA)	2	2	0	0	4	1	3	6
2 AL WAHDA (UAE)	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	2
3 BUNYODKOR (UZB)	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1
4 PIROOZI ATHLETIC (IRN)	2	0	1	1	2	4	-2	1
BUNYODKOR (UZB) v AL ITTIHAD (KSA) 0 - 1								
PIROOZI ATHLETIC (IRN) v AL WAHDA (UAE) 1 - 1								
05 Apr BUNYODKOR (UZB) v PIROOZI ATHLETIC (IRN)								
05 Apr AL WAHDA (UAE) v AL ITTIHAD (KSA)								

Group D	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 ZOBAHAN (IRN)	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	4
2 EMIRATES (UAE)	2	1	0	1	3	2	1	3
3 AL SHABAB (KSA)	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	2
4 AL RAYYAN (QAT)	2	0	1	1	3	2	-1	2
EMIRATES (UAE) v AL RAYYAN (QAT) 2 - 0								
AL SHABAB (KSA) v ZOBAHAN (IRN) 0 - 0								
06 Apr AL RAYYAN (QAT) v ZOBAHAN (IRN)								
06 Apr AL SHABAB (KSA) v EMIRATES (UAE)								

Group E	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 TIANJIN TEDA (CHN)	2	2	0	0	3	1	2	6
2 GAMBA OSAKA (JPN)	2	1	0	1	6	3	3	3
3 JEJU UNITED (KOR)	2	1	0	1	2	3	0	3
4 MELB VICTORY (AU)	2	0	2	2	7	5	-0	0
TIANJIN TEDA (CHN) v GAMBA OSAKA (JPN) 2 - 1								
MELB VICTORY (AU) v JEJU UNITED (KOR) 1 - 2								
05 Apr JEJU UNITED (KOR) v GAMBA OSAKA (JPN)								
05 Apr TIANJIN TEDA (CHN) v MELB VICTORY (AU)								

Group F	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 FC SEOUL (KOR)	2	2	0	0	4	0	4	6
2 HANGZHOU (CHN)	2	1	0	1	2	3	-1	3
3 AL AIN (UAE)	1	0	0	1	1	1	-0	0
4 NAGOYA GRAMPUS (JPN)	1	0	0	1	2	2	-0	0
FC SEOUL (KOR) v GREENTOWN (CHN) 3 - 0								
NAGOYA GRAMPUS (JPN) v AL AIN (UAE) (Postponed)								
06 Apr NAGOYA GRAMPUS (JPN) v FC SEOUL (KOR)								
06 Apr HANGZHOU GREENTOWN (CHN) v AL AIN (UAE)								

Group G	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 JEONBUK MOTORS (KOR)	2	2	0	0	5	0	5	6
2 SHANDONG LUNENG (CHN)	2	1	0	1	2	1	1	3
3 CERESO OSAKA (JPN)	2	1	0	1	2	3	-1	3
4 AREMA MALANG (IDN)	2	0	2	1	6	5	-0	0
SHANDONG (CHN) v CERESO OSAKA (JPN) 2 - 0								
AREMA (IDN) v JEONBUK MOTORS (KOR) 0 - 4								
05 Apr AREMA MALANG (IDN) v SHANDONG (CHN)								
05 Apr CERESO OSAKA (JPN) v JEONBUK HYUNDAI MOTORS (KOR)								

Group H	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 SAMSUNG BLUEWINGS (KOR)	2	2	1	0	4	0	4	4
2 KASHIMA ANTILERS (JPN)	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
3 SYDNEY FC (AUS)	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
4 SHANGHAI SHENHUA (CHN)	2	0	1	0	4	4	0	1
BLUEWINGS (KOR) v SHANGHAI SHENHUA (CHN) 4 - 0								
KASHIMA (JPN) v SYDNEY FC (AUS) (Postponed)								
06 Apr BLUEWINGS (KOR) v KASHIMA ANTILERS (JPN)								
06 Apr SYDNEY FC (AUS) v SHANGHAI SHENHUA (CHN)								

UCL Details

Quarter-Finals
5 April
Real Madrid v Tottenham Hotspur
FC Inter Milano v FC Schalke 04

6 April
Chelsea FC v Manchester United FC
FC Barcelona v FC Shakhtar Donetsk
Return legs to be played on the April 12th and 13th

Round of 16 - 2nd Legs
Shakhtar Donetsk 3-0 AS Roma
Aggregate: 6-2

Barcelona 3-1 Arsenal FC
Aggregate: 4-3

Tottenham Hotspur 0-0 AC Milan
Aggregate: 1-0

Schalke 04 3-1 Valencia
Aggregate: 4-2

Manchester United 2-1 Marseille
Aggregate: 2-1

Bayern München 2-3 Inter Milan
Aggregate: 3-3 Internazionale win on away goals

Chelsea FC 0-0 FC København
Aggregate: 2-0

Real Madrid CF 3-0 Olympique Lyon
Aggregate: 4-1

failed to click once again. It didn't matter however, as Anelka's brace in Denmark in the first leg proved more than enough to see the English champions through to the quarter finals.



Road to Wembley Gets Nearer

By Matthew Galea

ANOTHER two weeks of Champions League football has passed, taking four teams with it. With the conclusion of the round of sixteen, European's elite club competition has seen all but eight top teams eliminated, following eight second leg ties, most of which were keenly contested until the final whistle.

Shakhtar Donetsk and Barcelona were the first two teams to secure their spots in the quarter finals; ironically they have in fact been drawn together as well, seeing off the challenges of Roma and Arsenal respectively. The task was a little easier for Shakhtar than it was for Barcelona. The Ukrainian champions enjoyed a dominant performance over the struggling Italian outfit. Having won at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome with three away goals, Donetsk were always favourites to see out the tie and that was confirmed within 20 minutes when Brazilian midfielder Willian struck to put the hosts 1-0 up. Roma were given a terrific opportunity to get back into the game when they were awarded a penalty but Marco Borriello failed to convert the spot kick and from

there Shakhtar never looked like conceding. In the second half Donetsk put another two past Roma keeper Doni, when Willian secured his brace in the 58th minute, before former Arsenal man Eduardo finished the rout in the 87th minute.

Eduardo's former club, Arsenal, did not enjoy such luck. In their second leg tie at the Camp Nou, Arsenal were once again dominated by a superior Barcelona team. Arsene Wenger and his charges might have been incensed by the referee's decision to send Robin Van Persie rather harshly after booking him for shooting after the whistle had been blown for off-side, but that does little to change the fact that Barcelona were the better side over the two legs. Van Persie did little for his cause when he forced the referee into booking him after a rather unsavory incident with Eric Abidal in the first place. To focus on the performance of the referee would be an injustice to the brilliance of Barcelona, who scored three fantastic goals. Lionel Messi was again the shining light, bagging a brace. The first came just before half time when a brilliantly worked move was capped by some pure

inspiration which has become all too typical of the Argentinean in recent years. Xavi added a second in the 70th minute, before Messi converted a spot kick in the 71st minute to seal their progression. It almost came undone in the final minute, when Bentdner passed up a glorious opportunity to get a second vital away goal, after Busquets had put the ball into the back of his own net. Bentdner's poor finish was rather typical of Arsenal on the night, as they looked a side that was flat and lacking their usual craft and imagination.

Schalke continued to defy their domestic form with a very impressive performance over Valencia, with Jefferson Farfan bagging a brace. The game started well for Valencia, when Ricardo Costa put the away side 1-0 up in the 17th minute, but that was really as good as it got. Farfan's first came in the 40th minute, before Schalke killed off the tie with two more goals from Gavranovic and Farfan. On the same night, Tottenham weathered the storm at White Hart Lane to prolong their fantastic European journey, earning a 0-0 draw to knock out the Serie A leaders from the competition. This represents the second time

the Italian side have been knocked out in the round of sixteen in two years.

In the second week of the round of sixteen ties, we saw perhaps the best football of the round. The ties between Manchester United and Marseille as well as Bayern Munich and Inter Milan were finely poised, and all four sides gave everything to push through to the quarter finals. Manchester United enjoyed a 2-1 win over the tough French side. The fantastic Javier Hernandez demonstrated his terrific off the ball movement on a number of occasions and managed to find a finish to match twice to put United 2-0 up, scoring in the 5th and 75th minutes. A Wes Brown own goal in the 82nd minute ensured an edgy finish, but it wasn't to be for Marseille, as United booked their place in the quarter finals.

In Germany, Internazionale overcame a 1-0 deficit to once again defeat Bayern Munich in a rematch of last season's final. Samuel Eto'o reaffirmed his reputation as one of the most dangerous players in Europe, when he scored in the 3rd minute to equalize Bayern's away goal and level the tie. Munich responded

emphatically though, responding with two goals within ten minutes, when Mario Gomez and Thomas Muller managed to put Munich 3-1 up on aggregate. It seemed the reigning champions were heading out of Europe, but again they were able to overcome the odds. Wesley Sneijder sparked the comeback with a well taken goal in the 63rd minute, before Goran Pandev secured their progression on away goals in the dying minutes.

On the final day of action, Real Madrid breezed past Lyon to book their place in the quarter finals. After a tough game in France, Lyon had retained hope of once again proving Real Madrid's bogy side, but it wasn't to be. Real Madrid played some fantastic football, and although it took over 30 minutes for the Spanish giants to get their first, through left back Marcelo, there was never any doubt over who would progress. Benzema and Di Maria scored in the second half, within ten minutes of each other, to make certain of their progression.

While Madrid were coasting in Spain, Chelsea struggled against a resilient Copenhagen. Ancelotti chose to leave Fernando Torres out, but Chelsea's forward line

Monteleone Elected as FFV President

FOOTBALL Federation Victoria (FFV) announced last Thursday night, during the FFV 2010 Annual General Meeting, that Mr Nick Monteleone has taken the helm as the new FFV President.

Mr Monteleone, who has been a FFV Director since 2007, succeeds Mr Tony Dunkerley who recently announced his decision not to re-stand as President. Mr Monteleone’s involvement and passion for football spans 35 years, he has held positions as a player, coach, referee, club administrator, and board member. He remains a campaigner for the growth and development of football in Victoria and was a keen supporter of the constitutional reform which took place in 2007. During his acceptance speech Mr Monteleone said “I would like to thank past board members

and new board members who are going to be part of an exciting and challenging future. I would also like to thank Tony Dunkerley.” Mr Monteleone said. Outgoing FFV President Mr Dunkerley congratulated Mr Monteleone soonafter the result of the ballot was announced at FFV’s HQ on St Kilda Road. Mr Dunkerley said he was confident that FFV would remain in safe hands with Mr Monteleone’s leadership and farewelled FFV staff, friends and members. He also thanked retiring Directors Mr Jamie Parsons and Mr Mark Mark Trajcevski for their contributions. Football Federation Australia Director and former Soccerroo goalkeeper Mr Jack Reilly, presented Mr Dunkerley with a signed Soccerroos shirt as a token of appreciation from FFV. FFV CEO, Mark Rendell,



Nick Monteleone replaces Tony Dunkerley as FFV President.

thanked Mr Dunkerley for his contribution to football and welcomed Mr Monteleone as the new FFV President. “I would like to personally thank Tony once again for his

support and commitment to FFV and football in general and congratulate Nick on his new appointment as FFV President,” Mr Rendell said. “Nick’s all round experience and more

recently his four years on the FFV Board have been invaluable and I believe he’s ready to lead a great team,” he added. Mr Monteleone said he was particularly delighted that the football family had elected, for the first time, a female board member, Ms. Lynne Jordan, CEO Family Planning Victoria, and lawyer, Mr Steve Milicevic. Ms Jordan and Mr Milicevic will join current FFV Directors Ms Bridget Marcou, Ms Annette Hughes, Mr Bart Harrold and Mr Ian Eman-Ammachie. “The new Board will soon embark on a strategic plan for 2012 to 2015,” Mr Monteleone said. “The strategic plan for 2012 to 2015 represents a wonderful opportunity for us all to work together and harness the knowledge and experience of the whole football family” he said.

SHORT PASSES

Penalty Spot Up For Auction
The spot where Brisbane Roar converted four successful penalties in Sunday’s Hyundai A-League Grand Final will be auctioned on eBay in efforts to support the rebuilding of Queensland after the recent natural disasters. Bidders should be aware that the turf is natural product and to preserve it, it will need to be planted in the yard or a garden. To bid, sports fans should go to www.ebay.com.au and search for ‘Suncorp Stadium Penalty Spot to Aid Disaster Victims’. Alternatively, search under the category of ‘Sports Memorabilia’. Bidding will close at midday on Thursday 24 March.

McKinna to help out Chengdu Blades
Central Coast Mariners Football and Commercial Operations Manager Lawrie McKinna will head to the Mariners’ Chinese sister club Chengdu Blades, to help with a review of it’s coaching structure, and to oversee it’s current practices, following the recent departure of the club’s former manager. The move comes amid strengthening ties between the two clubs, along with English Championship club Sheffield United.

Postecoglou extends Roar contract
Brisbane Roar Head Coach Ange Postecoglou has agreed to extend his contract with the club to cover the next three Hyundai A-League seasons. The two-year extension to his existing contract will see the 2011 Premiership and Championship-winning coach remain at Brisbane Roar until the end of the Hyundai A-League 2013/14 season. It also means he will be at the helm when Brisbane Roar represents Australian clubs in the AFC Asian Champions League in 2012.

Trani Named Reds’ New Assistant Coach
Adelaide United FC Head Coach Rini Coolen has confirmed Luciano Trani as his Assistant Coach for the next two years. Part of Wellington Phoenix’s coaching staff for the past two seasons, Trani replaces Phil Stubbins as Coolen’s right hand man at the Reds.

Broich Claims Gary Wilkins Medal
Thomas Broich has capped off a memorable maiden season in the Hyundai A-League by claiming the coveted Gary Wilkins Player of the Year Award at Brisbane Roar’s presentation dinner, while captain Matt McKay took home two prestigious awards of his own. Gary Wilkins Player of the Year – Thomas Broich
Players’ Player – Matt McKay
Members’ Player of the Year – Matt McKay
Roars Against Racism Multicultural Ambassador Award – Matt Smith
Chairman’s Club-person of the Year Award – Sam Escobar
Golden Boot Award – Kosta Barbarouses
Volunteer of the Year Award – Ben Briskeby and Nola Nielson
W-League Player of the Year – Elise Kellond-Knight
Player’s Player of the Year – Aivi Luik
NYL Player of the Year – James Donachie

Socceroos Squad For Germany

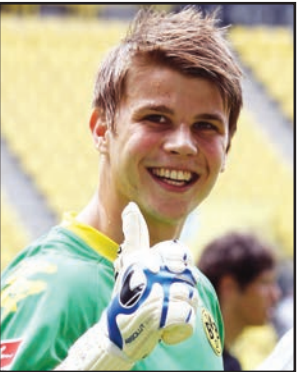
SOCCEROOS Head Coach Holger Osieck named his squad for the upcoming international friendly match against Germany National Football Team “The “Mannschaft”, at Borussia-Park in Mönchengladbach on Tuesday 29 March 2011.

Osieck has selected a reduced squad of 17 players comprising of 15 who were part of the Qantas Soccerroos squad that finished runners-up at the recent AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2011. Striker Nikita Rukavytsya returns to the squad after last being selected for the international friendly against Slovenia, whilst goalkeeper Mitchell Langerak receives his first ever call-up to the Qantas Soccerroos squad following some impressive performances with his German club Borussia Dortmund. Germany finished in 3rd place at the 2010 FIFA World Cup™, is currently ranked 3rd in the FIFA World Rankings and most recently drew 1-1 with Italy in a friendly match last month.

This will be the fourth meeting of the two nations at senior men’s international level with the Germans victorious on each of the three previous occasions which includes their 4-0 victory over the Qantas Soccerroos at the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ in South Africa. In addition a squad of 22 players have been selected to participate in a training camp for potential Qantas Soccerroos, Qantas Olyroos and Qantas Young Soccerroos by Football Federation Australia Technical Director Han Berger, Holger Osieck, Qantas Olyroos Head Coach Aurelio Vidmar and Qantas Young Soccerroos Head Coach Jan Versleijen. The purpose of the camp will be to identify Europe-based players for the upcoming 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifying campaign, 2012 London Olympic Games qualifying campaign and 2011 FIFA U-20 World Cup which will be played in Colombia in August.

This training camp will be held prior to the Qantas Soccerroos training camp in Duisburg, Germany from the 22nd to 25th March and will involve two training matches against local teams Borussia Mönchengladbach Reserves (23/3) and Schalke 04 Reserves (24/3).

- THE SOCCEROO SQUAD**
Tim CAHILL
Everton, Eng 52 apps (23 goals)
David CARNEY
Blackpool FC, England 38 (5)
Brett EMERTON
Blackburn, England 83 (17)
Brett HOLMAN
AZ Alkmaar, Netherlands 45 (6)
Mile JEDINAK
Genclerbirligi, Turkey 24 (2)
Harry KEWELL
Galatasaray, Turkey 53 (16)
Neil KILKENNY
Leeds United, England 7 (0)
Robbie KRUSE
Melb Victory, Australia 4 (1)
Mitchell LANGERAK
Borussia Dortmund, Germany -
Jon McKAIN
Al Nassr, Saudi Arabia 14 (0)
Matt McKay
Brisbane Roar, Australia 13 (0)
Lucas NEILL
Galatasaray SK, Turkey 70 (0)
Sasa OGNENOVSKI
Seongnam Ilhwa, Korea 8 (1)
Nikita RUKAVYTSYA
Hertha Berlin, Germany 7 (0)
Mark SCHWARZER
Fulham FC, England 88 (0)
Carl VALERI
Sassuolo Calcio, Italy 35 (1)
Luke WILKSHIRE
Dinamo Moscow, Russia 56 (3)



Langerak gets the thumbs up.

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THE TOURNAMENT IS HELD ON SATURDAY MARCH 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th.
FIRST GAME KICKS OFF AT 11.00am - LAST GAME 4.15pm

SATURDAY 19th MARCH RESULTS
OLD SCOTCH v SANDRINGHAM 1-1
EASTERN LIONS v MORELAND 1-2
CASEY COMETS v SOUTHERN STARS 2-1
WAVERLEY WANDERERS v MOOROOLBARK 2-2

SATURDAY 26th MARCH -FIXTURES
12.00 PM 7 v 8 WAVERLEY WANDERERS V SANDRINGHAM
1.25 PM 5 v 6 EASTERN LIONS V CASEY COMETS
2.50 PM 3 v 4 OLD SCOTCH V MOOROOLBARK
4.15 PM FINAL SOUTHERN STARS V MORELAND

For full fixture list go to www.easternlions.com.au

RESERVES GAMES KICK OFF AN HOUR EARLIER (11.00 AM, 12.25 PM, 1.50 PM, 3.15 PM) ON PITCH 2.

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JAMES VERLANDER CHARITY DAY

March 27th 2011

Venue:- Seaford United S.C.
North Seaford Reserve
Railway Parade, Seaford VIC



11:00am Intercontinental Cup
Rosebud Dinos v Montrose Legends

1:00pm Rainbow Foundation Cup
Hampton Park v Boronia Maidens

3:00pm James Verlanders Shield
Bayswater Strikers v Hampton Park

All money raised through Auctions & Raffles will be donated to charity

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Mirabella Cup Kicks Off!

By Robert Di Fabio

The opening of the Mirabella Cup was unveiled over the weekend with the commencement of the first round of the knock-out style tournament. In typical cup fashion there were plenty of highlights throughout the opening round. Several fixtures exceeded the standard 90 minutes, while some went to the full extent of a penalty shoot-out to determine who would proceed to the next round.

Cup football is a unique facet to our game. It's a do or die battle where there is no tomorrow. The exhilaration and tension cup football brings to the game is one of the more humbling experiences many football fans may experience throughout a season. Reminiscent of the FA Cup, we often witness smaller clubs intensify their football abilities to give the bigger boys a shake up. The beauty and appeal towards cup football often demonstrates how fairytales in sport do occur.

A live stream for the second round of the Mirabella Cup is scheduled to take place via the FFV website tonight (Monday) at 6pm. Visit the website for more information.

Due to the time of printing not all results were able to be published.

Darebin Utd and Heidelberg Stars kicked off proceeding with the earlier starting time at DISC. Heidelberg came out the better of the two sides, triumphing 1-0 over their Provisional 3 counterparts. Though the score final was close, Heidelberg Stars were clearly the better team on the day. Dare-



A battle of the raised boots during the Mirabella Cup Round 1 clash between Darebin United (Yellow) and Heidelberg Stars (orange). Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

bin United did have the better of the last 15 minutes, but the Stars were fitter, faster and more skilful team.

Simultaneously on the opposite pitch arch-rivals Watsonia Heights and Epping City locked horns. In what was a highly competitive, entertaining fixture both outfits demonstrated why derby encounters are a unique constituent to the game.

Ultimately Epping's superiority was evident recording a 3-1 victory.

In the Central zone Middle Park

(Prov 3) overcome their higher ranked opposition Elwood City (Prov 2) 2-1 in a closely disputed contest. Elwood City will be leaving the contest feeling disappointed following their upset defeat.

In the Wimmera/South Coast zone Geelong (State 2) washed away the Breakwater Eagles 4-0 (regional) in a contest which illustrated a considerable distinction in class and stature among the clubs.

Moving over to the Western zone the two State league outfits played out a memorable cup tie. Following the 90 minutes Keilor Park

(State 2) and Altona City (State 3) were deadlocked at 1-1. After the 30 minutes of extra time couldn't foresee a winner a penalty shoot-out resulted. Keilor Park massacred an unforgettable game winning the shootout 8-7 and causing an upset over their higher division opposition.

Meanwhile Laverton Park (Prov 1) was demolished 8-1 by their higher league opposition in Altona East Phoenix (State 2). A scoreline Laverton won't want to reminisce about any time soon.

In the Southern region South

First Round
MIRABELLA CUP: South Yarra 1 Melbourne University 0, Peninsula Strikers 6 Old Haileybury 0, Darebin Utd 0 Heidelberg Stars 1, Watsonia Heights 1 Epping City 3, Waverley Wanderers 5 Brandon Park 0, Middle Park FC 2 Elwood City 1, Yarra Jets 0 Yarraville Glory 6, Bell Park 0 Ballarat Red Devils 3, Geelong 4 Breakwater Eagles 0, Lovely Banks Lions FC 2 Warrambool Wolves 1, Western Eagles 0 Werribee City 3, Keilor Park 1 (L Carbone) Altona City 1, Westgate 6 (RT Cull J De Bono N Addo 4) Brimbank Stallions 1, Melton 0 Altona North 2, Laverton Park 1 Altona East Phoenix 8 (B Lojanica 4 N Papadopoulos 3 B Stafrace), Williamstown 2 (A Masonga M Oliveira) Cairnlea 0, Dandenong Warriors 2 Mornington 7, South Springvale 3 Berwick City 1, Dandenong City 3 Heatherton Utd 1, Hampton Park United Sparrows Football Club 3 Seaford Utd 5, DOC Utd 0 Whitehorse Utd 3, Brighton 1 East Bentleigh 2, Monash University 3 (O Arenneng M Goddard V Sinitsyn) Ringwood City 1, Noble Park Utd 4 Harrisfield Hurricanes 1, Bayside Argonauts 2 (b nalpantidis T Tzamouranis) Beaumaris 1

Springvale (State 2) proved to be too strong against their fellow state league opponents Berwick City (State 3) installing a 3-1 win.

In the North-Western zone the two Provisional 3 opponents East Bentleigh and Brighton faced each other in a fixture which saw the deadlock even at 1-1 after 90 minutes. Subsequently, East Bentleigh secured the important goal and went on to win the game 2-1 into extra time.

The conclusion of round one has seen many unforgettable moments. While many clubs have been eliminated at the initial stage, an abundance teams are still living the dream of meeting the heavyweights of Victorian football.

Blowing The Whistle

By Ashley Morrison

IT is easy to harp on about how bad the standard of officials are in the A league and the state league, but the question is how do we improve the situation?

Every team around the country in the Hyundai A league this year has witnessed decisions from referees that quite simply beggar belief. The FFA is loathe to react as they are keen on developing referees for the Asian Football Confederation, but at what cost.

Wrong decisions can cost a coach his job, they are the difference between a finals berth or not, or coming second or third. Too much is riding on these decisions for them to be brushed under the table. With the long gap between A League seasons it is time that the refereeing situation was seriously reviewed as it is undoubtedly harming the A League product.

Currently if you are on the Referees list for the A league you are given a base some of money and then a set fee per game. This was obviously an incentive to have more people take up refereeing or aspire to be an A league referee.

Costs are believe it or not a key factor to consider in the weekly appointment of officials, which cannot be the right way to run your A League referees roster. There is not one referee from WA on the Hyundai A league list. The reason given being one of cost; the FFA cannot afford to fly a WA official over East each week. That is no way to run your refereeing program, and is bound to cause the resentment amongst officials that exists around the country.

One suggestion would be to do away with the retainer, but increase the number of referees on the A league list, and increase the fee they are paid per game. All of the referees are then listed in an order, one to say fifteen. Make the fee paid per game around \$3,000 per game, (Which incidentally would equate to close to a current season's earnings with the present structure) but if they are deemed to have had a bad game they can see themselves replaced by another official, and they go to the bottom of the list and will remain there until another official has a bad game and they replace them at the bottom. Obviously if the officials above them have good games it may be a while before the demoted officials work themselves back onto the active list.

A similar structure would be applied to the referee's assistants.

Apart from ensuring a higher level of performance from the officials, this system would also expose more officials to the A league, and hopefully see more talented officials make it to the top level. It will also prevent any familiarity that may currently exist between players, coaches and referees.

A similar system should apply at state level with the coaches being requested to grade the officials every Monday after the game, so that points are not awarded in the heat of a defeat. This will ensure that those officials who are good remain referees and are rewarded for their professionalism.

Surely this has to be worth a try in order to bring the A League referees up to standard?

SHORT PASSES

Olympic Sign Studman

Sydney Olympic is happy to announce Brett Studman as the last signing before the season commences for the 2011 NSW Premier League WHICH kicks off on the 26th of March.

The 26 year old defender was released by North Queensland Fury where he had 9 appearances and 1 goal in the 2010/11 A league competition.

Adelaide United & Phil Stubbins Part Ways

Adelaide United advises that as part of the review process of the 2010/11 season and restructuring for 2011/12, Assistant Coach Phil Stubbins will not be part of the coaching panel.

Stubbins was appointed to the position of Adelaide United Assistant Coach in May 2007 and has been part of the Reds' past four Hyundai A-League seasons, as well as the club's AFC Champions League campaigns in 2008 and 2010, and the 2008 FIFA Club World Cup. Stubbins will continue his football career with Football Federation Australia (FFA). Adelaide United thanks Phil for his input as Assistant Coach and wishes him well in the future. Amini to gain European experience

Amini To Gain European Experience

Central Coast Mariners midfielder Mustafa Amini's footballing education will receive a massive boost over the next two weeks, as he heads off to train with German Bundesliga leaders Borussia Dortmund.

Amini will spend a fortnight training at the club where former Melbourne Victory goalkeeper Mitchell Langerak has made a name for himself in recent weeks, and whilst there, will head to Monchengladbach to watch on as the Qantas Socceroos take on Germany on March 29.

The 17-year-old will then return home for a Qantas Young Socceroos training camp in Canberra in early April, as the squad prepares for the 2011 FIFA U-20 World Cup in Colombia at the end of July.

Kashima match postponed indefinitely, FC play local friendly

The Asian Football Confederation has indefinitely postponed Sydney FC's 2011 AFC Champions League Group H match against the Kashima Antlers that was originally scheduled for Wednesday 16 March in the wake of the devastating situation currently occurring in Japan.

The Sky Blues next AFC match will be at the Sydney Football Stadium on Wednesday 6 April against Chinese club Shanghai Shenhua (8pm kick-off).

In the lead up to the Shanghai clash Sydney FC will take on the Rockdale City Suns at the Rockdale Illinden Sports Centre on Wednesday 30 March (7:30pm kick-off).

Tickets for the friendly against Rockdale can be purchased at the gate.

Paul Kelly Resigns From Football West Board

Perth Glory CEO Paul Kelly announced that he has resigned as a Director effective immediately. Mr Kelly was appointed to the Football West Board in August 2004 and was reappointed for a further four years at the 2008 AGM. Paul has now decided that he wants to put all of his efforts into the revival of Perth Glory and he feels that he is unable to split himself between Football West and WA's A-League team any longer.

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New Beginnings For Stubbins

By Matthew McNamara

ADELAIDE UNITED and Assistant Coach Phil Stubbins parted ways during last week, ending Stubbins four-year tenure at the Reds.

Stubbins is a familiar face amongst the Victorian Football Community having had successful coaching stints with Westvale Olympic, Whittlesea Stallions, Heidelberg United and more recently Richmond Eagles. He claimed the Victorian State Coach of the Year in 2005 and successfully led the State team on an undefeated tour of China in 2006.

Stubbins' coaching record speaks for itself, and its his relationship with his players combined with his excellent technical knowledge which has really seem him become one of the best coaches in the Australian system at the moment. Current Socceroo and Adelaide United Goal Keeper Eugene Galekovic described Stubbins as "...a great bloke who really got on well with the playing group". This is one of Stubbins biggest strengths - the ability to get the best out of players. Matthew Leckie is a prime example - Stubbins won't admit so but it is widely known that Stubbins played a massive role in leading Leckie accross to Adelaide through his contacts in Victoria.

Galekovic went on to say "I really wish Stubbinsy all the best, and I'm sure he will be a prime candidate for a senior gig in the A-League in the not to distant future."

Goal! Weekly caught up with "Stubbinsy" during the week to discuss his time in Adelaide and to ask what the future may hold.

GW: You had 4 years in Adelaide Phil, how did you enjoy your time there?

PS: Firstly, I met some great people and made some fantastic friends.

Adelaide United is a terrific club with tremendous supporters and I will hold the memories close, that's for sure I had four very exciting year's with the highlights mainly surrounding those ACL campaigns'. Those travels into Asia gave for some brilliant experiences from both a personal point of view and also from the club's perspective. Playing in the Final of the Asian Champions League was a very special occasion. Also representing Australian football in the Club World Cup in Japan, amongst teams like Man Utd, Gamba Osaka and the Latin champion teams of

South America was simply fantastic, as was the A League Grand Final against Melbourne Victory even though we lost. Ultimately, these past four years have substantially enriched my experiences and I feel very grateful and thankful for the opportunity to have learnt so much in my time with the club".

GW: What was your relationship like with Auerilo Vidmar?

PS: I'd have to say fantastic mostly, I feel we achieved quite a lot as a partnership. We certainly had our moments when we challenged each other but it was all in the best interests of the team. Looking back, being blunt and honest with each other actually worked very well for us. We ended our time there together as strong as we'd ever been gaining access into the quarterfinals' of the ACL campaign before Viddie went on to the Assistant Socceroo coaching role.

Our relationship became strong enough that whenever we had a disagreement we were able to turn things around in a very productive way. We had some great laughs along the way and some privileged experiences in some of the games we played in. I hold Viddy in high esteem, as both an ally and a friend".

GW: You're often at VPL games in the A-League off-season, where do you see the VPL compared to other local competitions?

PS: The VPL is quite possibly the strongest State league competition with respect to the other State leagues across the country. I think if you look at the players that come out of that league every year it holds sound to that fact with players like big Sash Ognenovski, Ivan Franjic, Matthew Leckie, Nick Kalmar, Roddy Vargas, Joe Keenan, Cameron Watson and the list goes on.

GW: Would you like to coach back in Melbourne, possibly with Heart or Victory?

PS: Big Question... (Pause)... Obviously they're two big clubs and the rivalry between them this season was fantastic for the A league. Any coach with ambition would love to coach either club I'd say. Melbourne Victory are the yard-stick for the rest of the A league with their past achievements and I'm sure the Heart will be doing all they can to emulate their feats. They are both slightly different as football clubs, yet both are certainly attractive propositions when talking about taking the helm of either club. The Victory is obviously in the transition of searching for a new



Phil Stubbins shows Andwele Story what the goals look like with Rini Coolen watchful in the background. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

coach now and it seems obvious to me that the challenge of reshaping their moves forward as a club is a very appealing one indeed".

GW: You were known behind the scenes as a man critical to the Asian Champions League campaigns at Adelaide, what was your role there?

PS: My role encompassed many things in the ACL, mainly to analyse the opposition and put forward subsequent game plans, video analysis sessions and offer Viddie relevant training practices necessary, all in an effort to harness our chances come match day. It was all based around implementing a plan that would tactically suit our strengths against some very tough and technically superior opposition. It was quite in-depth looking back. Both Viddie and I would get bunkered down on many occasions in our efforts to come out on top. I certainly enjoyed the process of plotting our plans together".

GW: You almost landed the NQ Fury job a couple of seasons ago, how big of a disappointment was that to you?

PS: Disappointing but not shattering. I would have loved the opportunity to showcase myself up there and felt the Fury were a club that really suited what I could have brought to the table. I was very excited by the prospect of going up North and I felt well prepared and confident about the challenge. It's a real shame they aren't going to be around next year to be honest. They're one of the clubs with a real genuine community feel about them. On witnessing the roles from both sides of the fence as both a head Coach and Assistant Coach has been a massive opportunity to observe your own formulas and methodologies against someone else's. To be able to assess and cultivate all of that knowledge over the last 18 years has been a big schooling period for myself and one which, ever given the opportunity to take the reigns as a Head Coach again will stand me in good stead".

GW: you were appointed to a role at the FFA almost immediately - What is your role with the FFA?

PS: They were in contact immediately after parting ways with

Adelaide, which was a really nice feeling. I will hold a meeting with Han Berger as soon as possible for more direction but, as yet they haven't offered any job description other than to mention aligning myself with future National team camps over the course of time. We discussed many things and I left the meeting feeling pretty humbled to have had the opportunity to discuss relevant future opportunities with both John Boulton and Alistair Edwards who, were very engaging".

GW: You were given charge of Adelaide United as Head Coach for nearly 3 months during the pre-season Phil prior to Rini's appointment, how did that go?

PS: I firstly need to mention the support offered by Carl Veart, Peter Blazincic, Ryan Peremiszcko, as well as the strength and conditioning guy's Andrew Young, Sean Tagg and the remainder of the football department staff who, all played a key role in providing a very strong platform for Rini. He initially came to us just prior to the season kicking off so, selling ourselves a little here, we did go 11 games unbeat-

en and we're top of the A League by 6-7 points from memory at one stage in the early phase of the campaign".

GW: Finally, the million dollar question. Why have you moved on from Adelaide?

PS: Football is a constantly shifting landscape and I feel the time is probably right for me to now move on. I've had such an engrossing and fulfilling time since going to Adelaide United and now it's time for Rini to go in the direction he feels best suits his vision. He has every right to choose and select his own staff and playing group, as he see's fit and we all need to respect that. I've left with no hard feelings and I certainly wish Adelaide well.

Rini feels he wants to emulate the model of Brisbane Roar somewhat and he confidently believes he can do just that without many of the personal previously there with the club.

He feels he can go on and gather the Championship next year, so good luck to him on that front".

GW: Thanks for you time Phil. I've got no doubt you would be an asset to any A-League club.



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Krncevic's Crunchlines

Australian soccer legend, Eddie Krncevic represented the Socceroos 35 times and scored 17 goals. He played professionally in Europe for Dimano Zagreb (Croatia), MSV Duisberg (Germany), Mulhouse (France) and Anderlecht, FC Liege, Aalst and Charleroi in Belgium. Eddie is currently the coach of the VPL's South Melbourne FC.

With Eddie Krncevic

Greetings football fans and welcome to another dose of Krncevic's Crunchlines.

FAN-TASTIC

It was a great to see a big crowd turn up to watch the Oakleigh Cannons versus South Melbourne VPL game on Friday night. I understand it was probably one of Oakleigh's biggest gates in a very long time, with some quarters putting the gate at over 2000. Full marks to the fans for making the effort to attend, and let's hope the trend continues and we see similar numbers attend more VPL games on a regular basis. Personally, I was extremely happy with my team's performance against a side that has burst out of the blocks and been one of the

front runners in this year's competition. It was a tough game, with both sides littered with quality all over the park, but overall I was delighted to secure the three points and keep our momentum going. We've got another tough game coming up next weekend against Melbourne Knights at John Cain Reserve, and let's hope the fans turn out in force once again and make a real day of it, as two clubs so rich in football history and who have given so much to Australian football in recent times, go head-to-head in what promises to be a mouth watering battle. On that note, I would like to publicly praise my squad for their impressive attitude and conduct so far this year. As you are

aware, Bob Jane is undergoing a massive overhaul at the moment, and we have been forced to train at numerous venues around Melbourne, as well as play our 'home' games at Northcote City's ground. The circumstances that have presented themselves have been a challenge to say the least. At some venues we were unable to have access to showers and other basic amenities. However, throughout this time my players have been completely accommodating and committed to the cause, getting on with their business without complaint. I commend them for getting on with the job and taking all before them in their stride. At times we have joked that we feel like gypsies, setting up camp

from one different venue to another, but if anything it has made us stick together and created a bond and team spirit that I hope serves us in good stead for the remainder of the season. Well done, lads.

ROARSOME ANGE

Congratulations must be extended to Ange Postecoglou for steering Brisbane Roar to a superb A-League Championship. You might recall that Ange was on the receiving end of a lot of stick and criticism when he initially took over the job at Roar and showed the door to quite a number of high profile first teamers. Out went Craig Moore, Charlie Miller and Danny Tiatto amongst others. People were questioning whether Ange was committing coaching suicide, but after been given the support and the time to implement his methods the Roar romped away with all before it, smashing teams and records along the way in stunning style. As well as turning the fortunes around of a flagging franchise, Ange's performance has been the best publicity local coaches could

have possible asked for.

Whilst there's always lots to learn from our overseas counterparts, Ange has demonstrated that if given the chance, the local variety may not be such a bad option afterall.

Just as the A-League was becoming overcome with adverse publicity, flagging attendances and clubs facing financial turmoil, the Roar were a breath of fresh air and just the sort of fairytale story the league was screaming out for.

In any case, the ex-South Melbourne coach, with already four national titles to his name, has certainly done nothing wrong to boost his stocks, and has been a nabsolute revelation for the competition this season.

In some regards, one could argue of the irony that it has taken a bit of 'old soccer' to give 'new football' just the injection it was yearning out for in tough times. Having said that, there are plenty more football people out there that are yet to be utilised.

Well done Ange, no doubt it has been a very sweet victory indeed.

BOOT ROOM

It was great to see Yianni Galanos back in the dressing rooms this week. Although he was still on crutches with a 'moon-boot', Yianni is on the first steps back to recovery after breaking his foot. Glad to have his presence around the place once again and we wish him a speedy recovery.

We were also delighted have Bobby Russell join the ranks at South Melbourne this week. No, it wasn't the former Adelaide City and South Melbourne captain from the 80s, who went on to make 4 appearances for the Socceroos, but rather a younger version who comes to South Melbourne from NYL champions Gold Coast United.

Young Bobby tells us that his grandfather actually represented Australia playing lacrosse, so it seems that the pedigree runs deep in the Russell clan. The early signs are promising, and let's hope this younger Bobby exceeds the achievements of his namesakes.

Gas Bagging Dept.



BOB'S WORLD



With Mark Boric

SO the FFV finally gave Ljubo Milicevic a clearance to play but nobody gave him a gate pass. Payment was demanded, harsh words were exchanged and apparently pizzas were delivered in what was another crazy week in Victorian football.

I wonder what brought on this late change of heart from the FFV? It was almost lights out for Ljubo's wish to play for South Melbourne without having to wait until the next transfer window. For the FFV to have reversed their stance so late in the day makes you wonder what behind the scenes political machinations have been taking place. I've hear a few rumours, and they are very illuminating.

Some harsh words from George Katsakis have seen him and Heidelberg become the latest victims of the FFV's "Abuse and You Could Lose" campaign. I'm a little suprised that soccer in Victoria has become so wild and lawless that so many large monetary fines and such frequent points deductions are being issued. When compared to other leagues around the world the AVPL is certainly leading the way in harsh punishments.

Docking points, especially over the actions of a single indi-



In the jungle, the mighty jungle the Lion sleeps tonight...especially after Ange signed a new contract.

vidual, should only ever be a last resort. Instead, it seems to be the first the first course of action under the FFV at the moment.

The A-League coaching merry-go-round is in full swing. Melbourne Victory made their play for Ange Postecoglou after ditching Ernie Merrick. Melbourne Heart were even sniffing around, possibly forgetting they already have a coach. The FFA became a player, doing their bit to keep Ange in Brisbane and adding Phil Stubbins to their staff. Luciano Trani returned to Australia to take up the assistants vacancy at Adelaide United created by the departure of Stubbins.

Grant Brebner won the Vic-

tory Medal. Bet you didn't see that one coming. Proof positive of what can happen if you back yourself, that you can overcome the odds.

The A-League Grand Final turned out to be an absolute classic. Brisbane back from the dead at 0-2 down with just four minutes of extra-time remaining to take the title on penalties. Though penalties is not a great way of deciding championships, when the minor premiers pull through justice is served. Expect Daniel McBreen to appear in some nasal spray advertisements soon, he was certainly caught out getting excited prematurely.



THE KATSA

With George Katsamboukas

GOAL A Game Arnie was desperately searching for the Fat Lady at last weekends A-League Grand Final, where dress size would not have mattered, he was praying for the clock to tick down so as she would come out and declare a Happy End for the Mariners.

But it was not to be, Arnie's Boys suffered the Mother of Sad Ends, as with 4 minutes to go and with a 2 Goal Lead, the Brisbane Roar, continuing on their never say Die attitude, equalised right at the End of Extra Time, and then cruised through the Penalty Shoot Out.

Suncorp Stadium, which was a few weeks ago renamed Suncorp Pools, was packed to the rafters in a Sea of Orange, and the local Fans would have spent the night in the Company of J Walker, as they celebrated Brisbane's unbeaten 28 Match Run, and the Championship.

All that remained was what would Roar Coach Ange Postecoglou do in terms of his Coaching career?

Would he take up Melbourne Victory's lucrative offer, or would he remain at Brisbane to continue on what he has built after the last 18 Months.

Enter Benny Buckley, who popped on his best Pin Stripe Suit, and he has locked in Postecoglou for a 2 year Contract Extension.

The next box that Benny now needs to tick, sorry I will rephrase that as he has many boxes to tick, is to find a new backer for the Roar.

This new backer must as a basic requirement, be prepared to see 2.5 Million Dollars go down the drain each Year, as that's how much the Roar have been losing each year, in the past.

If the Roar who have won the League are losing this very large amount, imagine what the other A-League Club's are losing.

Over to Jacks place we go, where on Friday Night a very healthy crowd was on hand, to watch the much anticipated derby between the Canons. and South Melbourne.

South Melbourne took out the Honours, and in attendance was the Creme Dela Creme of Current Club Powerbrokers, past Club Powerbrokers, and aspiring Club Powerbrokers.

Ljubo Milicevic received a last minute clearance from the House of Darebin, and he made his debut for South.

Speaking of the House of Darebin, a new El Supremo was anointed during the week, with Nick Monteleone taking over the reins from Tony Dunkerley.

Mark and Co were on hand to welcome in the New House of Darebin President, and Mark, who has been very quiet of late, spoke of Monteleone in the best way possible.

By the way, Monteleone is Mark's new boss.

Two weeks to go until the State and Provisional Leagues Kick Off, and Club Powerbrokers are frenetically trying to lock down their Playing Roster for 2011.

Negotiations between them and the players are very similar to scenes from Scarface, where the players start high, the Club Powerbrokers start low, before they meet somewhere in the middle.

Where they can't agree, ones Man's trash is another's treasure, and the Player will seek out his Flat Wage elsewhere, after all, he does give 100% each week!

Until next week

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Cheryl Salisbury

BLAST
FROM
THE PAST



With Roy Hay

Australia's most capped player

WHO is Australia's most capped footballer? Ask around and you will get many different answers because the Football Federation Australia has a list which only includes full 'A' internationals against overseas countries, while many games in the early days were played against club sides. Even if you find the man with the greatest number of appearances for Australia you will still not have the right answer, for Cheryl Salisbury has more caps than any of them, 151 in all when she retired in 2009. Yet she still does not have an entry in the Australian player data-base on the Ozfootball site.

Born in Newcastle in 1974, Cheryl took up football as a highly active seven year old, playing in a boys' team. She played with the Lambton Jaffas as a junior, coached by Brian Stephenson. She was a regular with the team from the Under-10s through to the Under-16s. In 1988 she was selected for the Australian schoolgirls team. By 1990 she was in the senior side at Lambton, but continued to play with the youth team winning the Newcastle grand final in 1992. She also had seasons with Adamstown in the New South Wales Women's State League and Stirling Macedonia. The Adamstown experience was unique in her early club career—the rest of it was spent playing in boy's or men's teams.

In April 1994 she began her extraordinary senior international journey when she was selected to play against Russia, scoring on debut in a two-one loss. Later that year she scored twice against Papua New Guinea in a seven-nil rout, which helped Australia qualify for the 1995 World Cup in Sweden where she started in two of three matches. She took part in the World Cup in the United States in 1999 and scored against China. Salisbury proved to be strong versatile player, being used by coaches in attack, midfield and defence. In the match against China, Australia was down to ten players early on after Alicia Ferguson was sent off. Salisbury kept pounding up and down the field and was rewarded with a goal after 66 minutes as the Matildas lost by three goals to one.

She was part of the Matildas team which played in the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000. In 2003 the World Cup was back in the United States and Australia lost to Russia and Ghana and draw with China with Salisbury ever present. From 2003 on she captained the Matildas, leading by example. In the Olympic



Cheryl Salisbury being chaired off after her final game for the Matildas. Source: Getty Images.



Salisbury in action for the Matildas against Japan in the third-place match of the Asian Football Confederation Women's Asian Cup in Vietnam on 8 June 2008. Source: Asian Football Confederation.



Cheryl Salisbury (8) uses her strength and technique to win the ball. Source: unknown

Games in Athens in 2004 the Matildas lost to Brazil by a single goal by the superstar Marta, then beat Greece and drew with the Unites States, but this was not enough to qualify for the next stage.

In 2007 Salisbury scored for a FIFA World eleven against China, the first Australian to do so. She had a superb tournament as Australia reached the knock-out

stages for the first time in the World Cup in China. A four-one win over Ghana and draws with Norway and Canada saw the Matildas through to meet the mighty Brazil. An injury to Salisbury saw her replaced by Kate McShea after only 20 minutes as the Matildas ran the Brazilians close only to go down by the odd goal in five. Cheryl Salisbury had played in

four World Cups for Australia, a record which is never likely to be equaled.

To extend her knowledge of the game and to help pay the bills she played for three seasons in Japan's L-League and in the United States W-League with Memphis Mercury and New York Power. She played with Newcastle Jets in the A-League from its inception in 2007 and

did a great deal to promote the game at all levels.

She retired on 31 January 2009 coming off the field to a standing ovation after scoring in with a penalty kick against Italy at Parramatta Stadium in Sydney in her final match, bookending her career with goals. She earned the respect of all who played with her.

Matilda's coach Tom Serman-

ni told Mike Cockerill. 'Having Shezza around, you know when the team goes out on the field, the leadership is there. Her sheer presence gives you that sense of comfort. That's what we'll miss the most. There's not another Cheryl Salisbury, and there won't be for some time to come. But it's not just about the stature she brings. We talk about her reputation, but she's also been an outstanding player. She can play midfield, defence, or attack. The respect she's got is worldwide. When she played for the FIFA-All Stars, the coach, Hope Powell, said to me, 'I never realised how good a footballer she was.' It's on the field that Shezza is going to be almost impossible to replace.'

In 2009 she became a member of the Football Hall of Fame. She continued her involvement as coach of Broadmeadow Mag-ic, taking the team to a championship in the Northern New South Wales Premier League.

She has a horse race named after her at Newcastle. In 2010 her son Nate was born and for the first time football had to take a back seat to family for Cheryl Salisbury, a genuine star of the game and its most capped Australian.

ROQUE SANTA CRUZ and Nelson Haedo Valdez have both been left out of the squad picked by Paraguay coach Gerardo Martino for international friendlies this month against Mexico and the United States.

Martino, who guided Paraguay to the second round of the World Cup last year, said he left the two out so they could play important club matches. Santa Cruz plays for English club Blackburn and Valdez is with Spanish club Hercules. Paraguay will look to Argentina-born Lucas Barrios, who plays with Borussia Dortmund, for its scoring punch. Paraguay faces Mexico in Oakland, California, on March 26 and the United States in Nashville, Tennessee, on March 29.

Paraguay Squad
Goalkeepers: Justo Villar (Val-ladolid), Diego Barreto (Cerro Porteno).
Defedners: Paulo Da Silva (Zaragoza), Victor Hugo Mareco (Brescia), Marcos Caceres (Racing), Atolin Alcaraz (Wigan), Aureliano Torres (San Lorenzo), Dario Veron (Pumas), Miguel Samudio (Libertad).
Midfielders: Enrique Vera (Liga de Quito), Marcelo Estigarribia (Newell's Old Boys), Osmar Molinas (Olimpia), Cristian Riveros (Sunderland), Nestor Ortigoza (San Lorenzo), Celso Ortiz (AZ Alkmaar), Edgar Barreto (Atalanta).
Forwards: Osvaldo Martinez (Monterrey), Oscar Cardozo (Benfica), Edgar Benitez (Pachuca); Lucas Barrios (Borussia Dortmund).

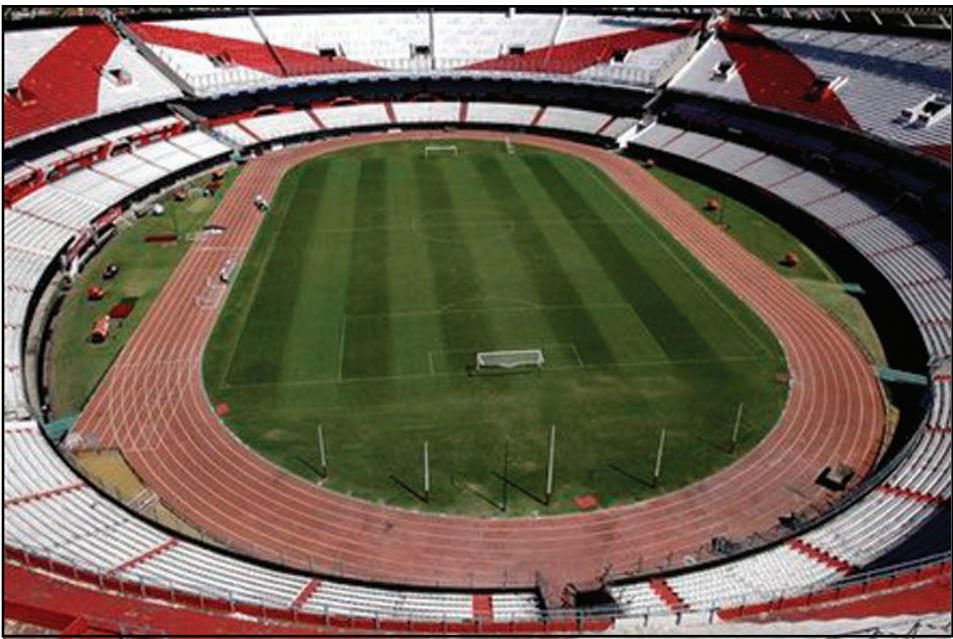
Argies beat Venezuela 4-1
Boca Juniors' Pablo Mouche scored twice as an Argentina side made up entirely of domestic players easily defeated Venezuela 4-1 in an international friendly last Wednesday.

The match was a chance for coach Sergio Batista to look at players who might make his team for the Copa America continental championship in July. Boca player Cristian Chavez and Luciano Aued of Gimnasia also scored for Argentina. Daniel Arismendi scored the Venezuelan goal.

"We played a great game," Mouche said. "Wearing the national team shirt is beautiful." Venezuela also used a team made up largely of locally based talent. The match also served to open the new Bicentenario stadium in San Juan, which will be used for three matches during the Copa America which is set for July 1-24.

Argentina will field its full squad, including Lionel Messi, for friendlies against the United States this coming Saturday, March 26 and Costa Rica on March 29.

Argentina and Uruguay are to set up a committee to look into a possible joint bid for the 2030 World Cup, which would mark the 100th anniversary of Uruguay hosting the first World Cup. Argentine Foreign Minister Hector Timerman and his Uruguayan counterpart Luis Almagro confirmed the



Seen here from above in a helicopter is the River Plate stadium, located in southwest Buenos Aires. More known as the "Monumental" will host in July the final of the Copa America and is Argentina's largest.

committee plans, which has been talked about for several years. They said they will work with each country's football authorities to coordinate their efforts.

Hosts Prepare for 2014

World Cup hosts have been selected through to 2022. Brazil will hold the 2014 tournament followed by Russia in 2018 and Qatar in 2022. Remember the only World Cup held jointly by two nations was Japan and South Korea in 2002.

"It will be a 100-year anniversary and we believe it would be interesting if it's played in America, and more specifically in Rio de la Plata," Argentine sports secretary Claudio Morresi said.

Both countries have twice won the World Cup, with Uruguay winning the first tournament by defeating Argentina 4-2 in the final. Uruguay also won in 1950, while Argentina won in 1978 and 1986.

BRAZIL

Coach Muricy Ramalho announced he quit Fluminense after the team's 0-0 draw with Flamengo in the Rio Cup on Sunday.

Ramalho, whose clubs won four of the last five Brazilian league titles, said he had already made his decision before the match, but didn't want to leave his players without command against the team's biggest rival.

Ramalho said in a statement he resigned because directors were not able to improve the club's conditions as promised when they hired him in the beginning of 2010. He had been complaining the team lacked an adequate training center and had always wanted other off-the-field improvements needed for a top club in Brazil.

Local media reported that Ramalho was in disagreement with some of the club's directors.

Ramalho turned down an offer to coach the Brazilian national team after the team's elimination in the 2010 World Cup, saying he would honor his contract with

Fluminense.

The 55-year-old coach led Fluminense to the Brazilian league title last year, the team's first in nearly three decades. He won 28 matches, drew 15 and lost 11 ahead of the traditional Rio club cross-town derby.

The announcement came after a lackluster 0-0 draw at the Engenhao, where neither Flamengo's Ronaldinho or Fluminense's Argentine playmaker Dario Conca were able to add a spark to their teams.

The Rio Cup is the first stage of the Rio de Janeiro state championship. Led by recently signed Ronaldinho, Flamengo won the first stage, the Guanabara Cup, automatically securing a spot in the state final against the Rio Cup winner.

Vasco defeated Madureira 4-2 in Volta Redonda behind three goals by midfielder Bernardo, and on Saturday Botafogo routed Americano 4-0 at Engenhao stadium behind two goals by Argentine striker German Herrera and one by Uruguay forward Sebastian "Loco" Abreu.

In the Sao Paulo state tournament, there were no changes atop the standings as Sao Paulo, Corinthians, Santos and Palmeiras won their weekend matches. The teams are tied with 28 points each after 13 rounds, but Sao Paulo has the tiebreaker advantage because it has more victories.

ARGENTINA
Riquelme Back

Juan Roman Riquelme seems certain to be back playing for Boca Juniors this weekend after being sidelined by injuries and new coach Julio Cesar Falcioni.

The 32-year-old Riquelme, the most-watched player in Argentina's Clausura, trained on Wednesday with the first team. He has not played since Boca was humiliated by Godoy Cruz in a season-opening 4-1 loss. Since then he has been out with a right ankle injury and recurring problems with his surgically repaired left knee.

Boca has only four points from its first five games and Falcioni—who is coming under increasing fan pressure—favors a faster-moving game goes against the slower, playmaking skills of the former Barcelona midfielder.

"We came here to do things correctly," Falcioni said after the loss to San Lorenzo. "And we'll stay until we do. There is no doubt about this."

One of Argentina's most popular clubs, Boca has struggled in recent seasons and has gone through a handful of coaches in just over a year—Falcioni, Claudio Borghi, Alfio Basile, Abel Alves and Roberto Pompei as Argentina's most popular club with only four points from its first five matches in the Argentina Clausura.

Tavez Out of Squad

Meanwhile, forwards Carlos Tévez and Sergio Agüero have been left out of the Argentina squad for friendlies this following week as part of this month's FIFA calendar dates against the United States and Costa Rica.

Coach Sergio Batista also excluded Manchester City's Tévez and Agüero of Atlético Madrid from a team that defeated Portugal 2-1 last month, preferring to try younger players ahead of the Copa America they host in June this year.

In the case of Tévez, however, Argentina officials were also critical he bowed out of a friendly late last year against Brazil. Reports have also suggested Tévez is not comfortable on the bench in the role as a backup.

Star forward Lionel Messi was selected to the squad Friday, along with experienced players Javier Zanetti, Javier Mascherano and Estéban Cambiasso. Argentina faces the Untied States this coming Saturday, March 26 in East Rutherford, New Jersey, and plays Costa Rica the following Monday (Tuesday AEST), March 29 in San José.

Argentina Squad:
Goalkeepers: Mariano Andujar (Catania), Adrián Gabbarini (Independiente, Argentina), Sergio Romero (AZ Alkmaar).
Defenders: Javier Zanetti (Inter Milan), Pablo Zabaleta (Manchester City), Ezequiel Garay (Real Madrid), Gabriel Milito (Barcelona), Nicolás Otamendi (F.C. Porto), Federico Fazio (Sevilla), Nicolás Burdisso (Roma), Marcos Rojo (Spartak Moscow).
Midfielders: Javier Mascherano (Barcelona), Mario Bolatti (Internacional, Brazil), Ever Banega (Valencia), Fernando Belluschi (F.C. Porto), Estéban Cambiasso (Inter Milan), Lucas Biglia (Anderlecht), Javier Pastore (Palermo).
Forwards: Lionel Messi (Barcelona), Ezequiel Lavezzi (Napoli), Ángel Di Maria (Real Madrid), Nicolás Gaitán (Benfica), José Sosa (Napoli), Eduardo Salvio (Benfica).

Menotti in Hospital

Cesar Luis Menotti, who coached Argentina to the 1978 World Cup title, has been admitted to a Buenos Aires and is reported to be suffering from a lung infection.

Hospital Italiano in Buenos Aires confirmed his presence Sunday but declined to give details.

Known affectionately as "El Flaco"—the thin one—72-year-old Menotti has coached Argentina and also some of Europe's best-known clubs including Barcelona, Atlético Madrid and Sampdoria.

In Argentina he coached the country's two most famous sides—Boca Juniors and River Plate—plus a half-dozen more including clubs in Uruguay and Mexico.

Menotti's last job was as sporting director of Argentine club Independiente, a position he left late last year. A heavy smoker, Menotti received various get-well messages from players including Atlético Madrid forward Sergio Agüero, who wrote on his Twitter account: "My best wishes for the recovery of "Flaco" Menotti, who is in intensive care with a lung infection."

Boca Leader Attacked

Still on Argentina with matters off-field, Buenos Aires police have confirmed reports that an ex-leader of Boca Juniors' La Doce barra brava faction was attacked in the city in the early hours of Friday morning last weekend, receiving two gunshot wounds upon exiting a popular nightclub.

Olé sports, a respected newspaper reports that William Fernández, better known on the terraces as 'Richard the Uruguayan' was shot twice outside notorious nightclub El Cocodrilo at roughly 3am and was immediately transferred to a local hospital. According to family members, Fernández remains in intensive care.

El Cocodrilo, a past favourite hangout of Diego Maradona, has become a habitual meeting place for members of the Boca hooligan faction, who spend most Thursday

evenings in the cabaret bar, and it is suspected by police that internal struggles are behind the attack.

La Doce chief or "capo" Mauro Martin removed 'El Uruguayo' from his place as number two in the "barra" roughly a year-and-a-half ago, but as Martin is banned from entering the bar he is not believed to have been involved. Suspicion has since fallen on the 'unofficial' faction of the barra who operate from Buenos Aires neighbourhood Mataderos, and are led by Rafael di Zeo.

TRANSFERS

Brazil's World Cup striker Luis Fabiano has rejoined Sao Paulo from Sevilla for 7.6 million euros (\$10.49 million), the Brazilian club said on Friday.

"Luis Fabiano has a 'tricolour' soul and will bring to our team the quality, fun, irreverence and fighting spirit that have always characterised him."

The 30-year-old, who led the line for Brazil at the World Cup finals in South Africa last year, signed a four-year deal with Sao Paulo after becoming unsettled in his sixth season with Sevilla when he lost a regular starting place in the team.

According to Sao Paulo, negotiations to bring Luis Fabiano home went on for more than four months owing to competition from European clubs. The player had agreed a contract extension with Sevilla until 2013 in August but injuries and inconsistency have dogged him this year, although he leaves them as their joint top scorer in La Liga with 10 goals.

Earlier this week, Luis Fabiano was ruled out for six weeks with a knee injury picked up in Sevilla's 2-0 defeat at Athletic Bilbao, which left them seventh in the standings. Luis Fabiano, who helped Sevilla win back-to-back UEFA Cups in 2006 and 2007 and the King's Cup in 2007 and 2010, will be officially presented to the media by Sao Paulo on March 30.

MEXICO

Another coach in Efraín Flores, who took charge of Pachuca two weeks ago after Argentine Pablo Marini resigned, made an unhappy debut in a crushing 4-0 home defeat last week by Atlante in the Mexican Clausura championship.

Former Mexico striker Francisco Fonseca broke his 11-month goal drought by scoring twice as Atlante's "Potros" (the Colts) hit four in 21 first-half minutes in last Saturday night's match at Pachuca's Hidalgo stadium.

Pachuca's Colombian international goalkeeper, Miguel Calero, who came off injured after Fonseca's second goal in the 41st minute, said he would have surgery on his left arm and be out for the rest of the season.

Tigres UANL, held 1-1 at home by San Luis on Saturday, have a three-point lead over title holders Monterrey in Group One. Monterrey, winners of the Apertura championship in the first half of the season, beat Necaxa 1-0 away last Friday.

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Bonnyrigg The Team To Beat Again

By Mike Salter

NEW SOUTH WALES

THE 2011 NSW Premier League kicks off next weekend, with big-spending Bonnyrigg White Eagles looking a good bet for top spot once again. There has been plenty of movement in the summer, including a large-scale exodus from one club to its bitterest rival...read on for more details.

Last season's champions Blacktown City look unlikely to hold on to their crown. The two individuals who have been central to their spasmodic success over the last five years have both moved on; talismanic coach Aytek Genc has departed the dugout, while habitual top-scorer Tolgay Ozbey has gone from crowds of a couple of hundred at Lily Homes Stadium to crowds a hundred times that size at East Bengal FC in the Indian Premier League. There are no new players of note in the Blacktown ranks, and another successful season may be beyond them.

It is an altogether different story at 2010 Premiers Bonnyrigg. Coach Brian Brown has held on to last season's star performers and added three excellent recruits from the Sutherland Sharks, in the shape of sturdy defender Michael Robinson, promising midfielder Blake Powell and left-back Ben Spruce. The only significant departure during the summer has been that of the exciting young winger David Gullo, but there is plenty of depth in the Bonnyrigg ranks to make light of this loss. Brad Boardman and Nathan Elasi will be looking to bang in the goals once more, while Daniel Severino's remarkable left foot will continue to strike fear into opposition defences at set-pieces.

The big story of the off-season has been the wholesale raid on



Bonnyrigg White Eagles ran away with the Minor Premiership last year only to fall at the final hurdle. Can they go one better this time around?
Photo: CARLOS FURTADO/Courtesy FNSW

Bankstown City's crown jewels by...their loathed rivals Sydney Olympic. Not only will player-coach Peter Tsenekis be delivering his exquisite half-time rants at Belmore this season, but no fewer than six Bankstown players have made the move across King Georges Road, including prized striker Robbie Mileski and Sydney FC youth star Ibrahim Haydar. Even Brett Studman, who moved from Bankstown to the now-defunct North Queensland Fury, will return to the NSWPL in Olympic colours. Bankstown, for their part, have promoted several youth teamers in an effort to plug the gaps, but the omens are not good. As for Olympic, will their eleventh coach in six years finally discover the formula for success at the league's most enigmatic club?

Despite the loss of coach Lee Sterrey to Rockdale, Marconi

look in good shape going into the 2011 season. They have retained the services of several promising youngsters, including the quick, dangerous wingers Mitchell Mallia and Nathan Jagelman. Two useful acquisitions from Manly United, defender Andrew Mailer and striker Keith Shevlin, should prove useful to new coach Luke Casserly as well.

Sydney United welcome back the highly respected Jean-Paul de Marigny as head coach after opting for player-coaches in 2009 and 2010. Also making their debuts in the NSWPL will be two former Sydney FC favourites in Mark Rudan and Ufuk Talay, the latter a victim of the A-League's failed expansion plans. Otherwise, there has been little change to a settled squad, and the Croatian-backed club will be highly competitive in 2011.

Last season Rockdale City performed way above expectations in their first season in the NSW top flight, and the club has been very active in the off-season. Their recruitment has been shrewd, too, with former AIS star Jason Naidovski and experienced defender Mirko Jurilj among the newcomers. Lee Sterrey brings his no-nonsense managerial style to Bicentennial Park in 2011, and Rockdale could well challenge for a finals spot this season.

The Sutherland Sharks have been a popular side for neutrals in recent seasons, with their positive style of football and friendly home ground ensuring plenty of goodwill. This season could be a difficult one for them, however, with the aforementioned trio of key players joining the Bonnyrigg revolution and club stalwarts such as George Souris, Mike Katz and

Jim Bakis not getting any younger. On the upside, former Sydney FC left-back Nick Tsattalios has arrived at Seymour Shaw, along with the somewhat under-rated ex-Blacktown utility Lachlan Cahill.

APIA-Leichhardt have returned to their Lambert Park home after some unhelpful disputes over the ground's suitability for Premier League football. Their squad is largely unchanged; although midfielder Hirofumi Moriyasu has now established himself with Sydney FC, the elegant Franco Parisi will still be there to add class to the midfield, along with former Liverpool winger Nick Rizzo. Cole Tinkler, another player with A-League experience, has arrived to stiffen the defence. The Italian-backed club will be hoping for a Coalition victory in the forthcoming NSW state election, as the Liberals have promised to contribute over \$2

million to a desperately-needed upgrade to Lambert Park.

The remaining three teams in the competition are unlikely to gain a finals berth. After punching above their weight for so many years, Manly United had a wretched time of it in 2010; with long-serving coach Phil Moss now serving as assistant to Graham Arnold at the Mariners, it doesn't look like 2011 will be their year, especially with no significant changes to the squad. The South Coast Wolves looked a callow unit last season and we can probably expect more of the same in 2011, despite the addition of former Sydney FC defender Jacob Timpano. New boys Parramatta FC, formerly the Melita Eagles, will be relying on the players who secured their promotion, with the squad featuring only a smattering of players with Premier League experience. Nevertheless, they will no doubt be encouraged by Rockdale's performances in 2010.

FNSW PL Round One	
Bankstown City vs Marconi Stallions	Sat 26th March 7:00 PM Jensen Park
Sutherland Sharks vs Blacktown City	Sat 26th March 7:00 PM Seymour Shaw Park
Rockdale City Suns vs APIA Leichhardt Tigers	Sun 27th March 3:00 PM Illinden Sports Centre
Parramatta FC vs Bonnyrigg White Eagles	Sun 27th March 3:00 PM Melita Stadium
South Coast Wolves vs Sydney Olympic	Sun 27th March 4:00 PM John Crehan Park
Sydney United vs Manly United FC	Sun 27th March 4:00 PM Sydney United Sports Centre

Balkan Wrap with Alex Milic

Serbia

Partizan overcame a lacklustre Red Star side 2:0 with a double to Ghanian forward Prince Tagoe in the first leg of their Serbian Cup Semi Final.

Right at the start of the match Red Star should have opened the scoring but Evandro's volley went wide of Stojkovic's goal. Partizan took advantage of their first real chance when a Smiljanic shot from about 25 yards took a wicked deflection off new signing Prince Tagoe and wrong footed Red Star goalkeeper Stamenkovic. Prince Tagoe looked to have been in an offside position but the referee saw nothing wrong and it was a great start for the league leaders.

Kadu had a great chance to level the scores in the 23rd but his shot was stopped by the outstretched foot of Stojkovic in the Partizan goal. A real let down for Red Star fans who should be celebrating a goal instead they continue to wait. New signing Borja should have scored the equaliser on the stroke of halftime but his poor shooting and precision was a huge let down for the 'red and whites'.

Partizan opened the second half with high tempo football controlling the possession and creating good chances. Iliev almost made it 2:0 but Stamenkovic made a fantastic save to deny the former Serbia international. There would however be no stopping the header of Tagoe who leaped ahead of youngster Cosic and thus scoring his second

of the match to the delight of the home fans.

Red Star was desperately looking for a goal and went close on a couple of times the most certain chance going to Borja who superbly stepped past Krstajic before placing a shot over the bar when it was easier to score.

Both sides played good football and the return leg will be another cracker. Red Star need to score twice without conceding to take the tie to extra time, so expect an open affair between the League leaders Partizan and defending Cup winners Red Star. In the other semi final Vojvodina won away to Sloboda Sevojno 2:1 and is 90 minutes away from another Cup Final.

In the league Vojvodina is now equal on points and share second place with Red Star following a comprehensive win against bottom placed Cukaricki. Former Red Star striker Omaru found the net twice and Tumbasevic added a third.

Borac - Sloboda Sevojno 1:0 (0:0)
Damjanovic 62'

Jagodina - Indija 2:0 (1:0)
Vusljanin 5', Dragicevic 57'

Smederevo - Javor 2:1 (1:1)
Zivkovic 25', Ognjanovic 75' - Hadzibulic 45'

Spartak - Metalac 2:0 (0:0)
Simovic 59', Torbica 89'

OFK Beograd - Hajduk 1:0 (0:0)
Simic 78'

Croatia

Dinamo Zagreb v Hajduk Split 184th Croatian Eternal Derby.

On a shocking pitch (more than half of the grass looked burnt) Dinamo Zagreb defeated arch rivals Hajduk Split 2:0 at the Maksimir Stadium in Zagreb with goals by captain Badelj and Montenegrin striker Beciraj.

It was an entertaining affair with Hajduk having some real good chance to score but the Split club failed to capitalise and thus were punished by the league leaders and defending champions Dinamo.

Badelj scored a cracker volley on 23 minutes and the home side could have scored three more time but Subasic in the Hajduk goal denied the blues with great reflexes.

The win and most likely a fifth consecutive title was sealed with half an hour to go when Beciraj headed home from a Tomacek cross.

Many fans and journalists considered this one of the best games Dinamo has played under the guidance of Bosnian manager Vahid Halilhodzic.

Hajduk played well even though Dinamo was more superior. It was one of the best games we have played all season but like I said Hajduk wasn't that bad either. When sides play defensive against us it gives us the chance to attack and showcase what we can do, so it was hard for Hajduk to do much today playing on the counter". Halilhodzic said after the match.



Beciraj celebrates

"I would like to congratulate Dinamo on their well deserved victory. The match was great and it was a real derby. We had some good chances to level the scores but we didn't know how to take those chances. But theres no excuses Dinamo was better throughout the

match and in all elements of play". A defeated Hajduk Manager Goran Vucevic said following the match.

In other matches Split continue to play fantastic football and are looking good for a Europa League spot as they defeated Zagreb 2:0.

Croatia			
	P	GD	Pts
1 Dinamo	22	+35	55
2 Hajduk	22	+26	47
3 Split	22	+10	36
4 Inter Zapresic	22	+2	35
5 Cibelia	22	+8	32
6 Karlovac	22	0	30
7 Rijeka	22	-6	30
8 Varazdin	22	-4	29
9 Zagreb	22	-4	28
10 Osijek	22	0	27
11 Zadar	22	-3	27
12 Sibenik	22	0	26
13 Slaven Belupo	22	-2	26
14 Lokomotiva	22	-13	23
15 Istra 1961	22	-20	18
16 Hrvatski	22	-29	17

Serbia			
	P	GD	Pts
1. Partizan	18	50:13	49
2. Vojvodina	19	31:7	44
3. Crvena zvezda	18	27:9	44
4. Rad	18	27:9	35
5. Spartak	19	19:12	29
6. Smederevo	19	18:17	25
7. Sloboda Sevojno	19	21:21	25
8. OFK Beograd	19	16:17	25
9. Jagodina	19	16:17	24
10. Javor	19	14:16	23
11. Borac	19	12:19	21
12. BSK	18	11:22	19
13. Indija	19	16:31	13
14. Metalac	19	11:29	13
15. Hajduk	19	13:28	10
16. Cukaricki	19	5:40	4

QSL Wash Out

By Jarrod Ellis

QUEENSLAND

The second round of the Hyundai QSL was a short lived affair as four of the five fixtures were postponed due to poor field conditions brought about by wet weather.

The postponements left only NQ Razorbacks and Sunshine Coast in action. That match wasn't completely unaffected by the weather, the venue having to change away from the Razorback's home ground to International Park in Ayr.

Both teams went into the match on the back of impressive wins, Sunshine Coast Fire defeating Brisbane Strikers whilst NQ Razorbacks crushed Bundaberg Spirit 5-0 in their season opener.

This time around it was the Razorbacks who were on the end of a hiding, reigning champions Sunshine Coast easily accounting for the home side 3-0. The result leaves the Fire in a familiar position atop the QSL ladder and firmly lays the gauntlet at the feet of the rest of the league after they've now accounted for two of their closest rivals away from home.

It may be far too early to be tipping sides for league champions but on the back of the impressive start from Sunshine Coast the rest of the QSL will be hard pressed to stop them claiming the title.

South Koreans inspire Clarence United

By Walter Pless

TASMANIA
Clarence United, inspired by their three South Korean imports, are top of the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League after winning their first three matches.

Last Monday, Clarence beat Beachside 2-0, while on Friday night, they downed the highly-fancied Tilford Zebras 2-1.

Forward Seung Woo Park, 18, and midfielders Kyu Jun Kim, 23, and Jae Ho Lee, 20, are behind Clarence's fine form.

The trio have set the league alight with their scintillating play and it must surely be only a matter of time before they are snapped up by Mainland sides.

Kim, who is outstanding with both feet, controls the midfield for Clarence, while Lee and Park terrorise defences with their pace and ability to get in behind opponents and deliver telling crosses or shots at goal.

Lee scored both goals in the 2-0 win over Beachside, while it was his deflected shot that proved the winner against Zebras.

Olympia Warriors made it third time lucky when they beat Glenorchy Knights 3-1 at home in their third outing at Warrior Park, their new ground with the artificial pitch.



Clarence United coach Andrew Brown and his side's three South Korean imports who are setting the league on fire.
Photo: WALTER PLESS

The Knights finished the match with just nine players. Alex Holmes had been sent off five minutes before the break for a professional foul on Adam Hedge when Olympia were leading 2-1, and Brendan Garth limped off with just a few minutes remaining but could not be replaced because all the substitutes had been used.

Olympia desperately needed to win this match and they led 2-0 after just 9 minutes.

A terrible error by goalkeeper Ben Peter gifted Hedge the opener in the 4th minute. Peter tried to clear but mis-timed his kick

and gave the ball to Hedge, who gleefully tapped it home.

In the 9th minute, Peter punched a corner straight down to Lee Mason, who lobbed the ball over the keeper and into the net to make it 2-0.

The Knights pulled a goal back in the 16th minute through Frenchman Mathieu Gregoire, who latched onto a pass on the edge of the box, turned, and beat Dmitri Nester with a low drive inside the keeper's right-hand post.

Nektar Vavoulas netted Olympia's third in the 73rd minute

with a deft left-foot chip from the left, the ball sailing over Peter at the near post and dropping just inside the far post.

Olympia had a couple more chances in the closing minutes, but 3-1 was good enough on the night to break their losing streak and register their first points of the season, which put them off the foot of the ladder and into 5th place.

Kingborough Lions United beat Beachside 2-0 at Lightwood Park in a dour match.

The result means Kingborough are in 6th place and Beachside

have dropped to last.

The opening half was goalless, but Kingborough might have had two penalties. Luke Atkin appeared to handle one effort off the line with his keeper beaten, while Brett Pullen's foul on Joel Schuth seemed well inside the box, but the referee gave the Lions a free-kick on the edge of the penalty area.

Beachside were reduced to just two chances in the opening half, Huw Jarvis and Jack Turner both missing the target from range.

David Abbott and Cooper squandered chances in the first 15

Tasmania Results	
Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League	
Tilford Zebras	1
Clarence United	2
Kingborough Lions	2
Beachside FC	0
Olympia FC	3
Glenorchy Knights	1
South Hobart FC	1
New Town Eagles	1
Forestry Tasmania Northern Premier League	
Devonport City	2
Launceston City	0
Launceston United	0
Ulverstone	6
Prospect Knights	1
Somerset	0
Riverside Olympic	0
Northern Rangers	2

minutes of the second half before Marcello Marchioli put the Lions ahead in the 71st minute with a low drive from range. Soszynski appeared slow to dive and the ball went past him and inside his right-hand post.

Two minutes into stoppage time, Ben Watkins, making his senior debut as a 72nd-minute replacement for the injured Schuth, made it 2-0 when he ran onto a pass from Cooper and beat Soszynski from inside the box.

They're All In....For Now!

By Nat Adamopoulos

SOUTH AUSTRALIA
A week's a long time in football" couldn't have rung truer in the lead up to the start of the 2011 FFSA Men's football season.

As late as ten days prior to the season commencing, the SA football community were still unsure as to who was actually going to be participating in the competition, with the real possibility of a breakaway 'rebel' league still looming over administrators heads.

The disgruntled clubs were taking a stand with the governing body, wanting issues regarding affiliation, membership, fees and services to be addressed and their concerns to be heard. Although numbers had dwindled down to 10, the 'rebel clubs' still packed a sting with some big name clubs belonging to that group adamant they would take it all the way. After quick deliberation and scrambling discussions, a middle ground was found with the FFSA giving their assurance to the Clubs that a review would be done and answers would be given in the not too distant future. So a sigh of relief was felt with the media release that read all 30 clubs were back in and the 2011 season fixtures would remain as is!

2011 Super League season kicks off on the 26th March with the match of the round undoubtedly being the Grand Final replay between Adelaide Blue Eagles and Adelaide City at the Marden Sports Complex.

2010 Preseason Cup and Championship Trophy holders **Adelaide City** are again looking good with the majority of their squad intact. Once again under the coaching direction of the goal master Damian Mori, the introduction of new players Rowe, Costa, Marchi and Fry will compliment the experience of players like Johnathon Negus, Nicky Orr, and



Jackson Groves, Mimi Saric (Raiders) and Scott Tunbridge (ground) battle for Carlsberg Cup honours. Photos: ADAM BUTLER

staunch defender Paul Pezos. Eyes will be on Riccardo Da Silva, Nick Budin and Jace Cummins, who have all had a good preseason preparation.

2010 Federation Cup Finalists and 2011 Carlsberg Cup winners **MetroStars** are going into this season with one of their key club men missing in Michael Pirone who hung up the boots at the end of last year. But going by their 1:0 Cup winning performance over John Kosmina's Raiders, they have not missed a beat and are in my opinion the strongest team in the competition and firm favourites. With coach David Terminello having more depth to his squad than the proverbial Grand Canyon, the club once again fields a side that remains pretty much firmly etched with an abundance of strength and football talents. Defender Lee Robertson gets the Captain's armband this year which I'm sure he will take in his stride. Pleasing to see forward Michael Matricciani has come back

into form and with the signing of released Adelaide United player Francesco Monterosso who scored the goal in the Carlsberg Cup Final, their strikeforce will be hard to beat!

Adelaide Blue Eagles have suffered the biggest losses namely with their front man and glamour boy Sarantis Parissos, young Adam Harris and 2010 SA Football Hall of Fame inductee coach Zoran Karadzic. Parissos has chosen to join his brother back in the Premier League at Adelaide Olympic, Harris has split from his twin brother Kym to go to Raiders while multi-championship winner Karadzic has taken up a 2 year contract in an assistant coaching role in Asia. After a fizzle to the end of their fantastic 2010 season, new coach Vojo Glusevic (Karadzic's assistant coach) would be wanting to go that one step more to take out the title. Young gun Ian Kamau has caught my eye this preseason and will one to look out for.

SA Results	
Carlsberg Cup Final Final: Raiders v Metro Stars - Hindmarsh Stadium	
Raiders 0 (Monterosso)	v Metro Stars 1 (HT 0-0)
Best - Raiders (Hain, Harris, Claridge) Best - Metro (Tunbridge, Groves, Menechella Dan)	

Veteran keeper Gino De Lucia will take up his place between the sticks and again the ones to watch will be Chad Bugeja, Evan Kounavelis, Fortunato Filetti, Mitch Nicholson and hard tackler Adam Vizzari.

Adelaide Galaxy see a change in coach with Brenton Hiern leaving state league Grand Finalists Noarlunga to take up the spot that Carl Maynard has vacated. The side has lost tough defender Joe Wright (Campbelltown City) but has picked up Scott Wiedenbach (Modbury Jets) in his spot. Weidenbach has been a strong performer at the Jets which Hiern hopes he continues with his new club joining captain Michael Doyle in his line of defence. Midfielders Steve DeGiovanniello and Steven Kidd provide for Shaun McGreevy and Michael Debono upfront and after what was a slow start to preseason now look to be travelling nicely.

Adelaide Croatia Raiders supporters could be singing "Kossie Kossie Kossie....Oi Oi Oi" this season if all things go right. Coach John Kosmina has taken them unbeaten all the way through to the Carlsberg Cup Final and has his lads playing some very impressive football. Without doubt the club's biggest loss is two times Sergio Melta Player of the Year winner and Captain Richie Alagich, but club stalwart Mimi Saric has returned from his horror year plagued with injury and has been back in hot form. New acquisitions Shannon Claridge (SASI) and Adam Harris

(Adel Blue Eagles) have been consistently strong on field and coupled with left sided players Craig Johnston and Paul Mackey, Kosminas outfit are looking to threaten the top five and possibly top spot. Will be looking very closely at this one.

The **Red Devils Campbelltown City** have had a shake up with both coaching and playing personnel this season. Longtime Coach Rocky Aloisi departs to State League side Salisbury United to face his son Ross Aloisi who coaches West Adelaide in Round 1 and in his place striker Jason Trimboli tries his hand in a player/coach role. Captained by Michael D'Alosio the squad has its old faithful in Michael Menechella, Domenic Signoriello, Michael Paleka and keeper Les Pogliacom. They will be joined by newcomers Kosta Mantis and Joe Wright. Oliver Totani who had a stellar year with the Cobras in 2010 will be coming home to be a Red Devil again and has fitted straight back in as he had never left.

Para Hills Knights have had what I would call an extremely poor preparation to the season this year with underperformances all round giving coach Kenny Tosh a lot to think about. On paper the Knights have lots of quality players but just don't seem to have got it together. Benny Moore takes his spot between the sticks again and Aaron Goulding, David Bounds, Bruce Selga, Shane Tobias and the Mullen boys will all play key roles in the side. Rhys Townsend and Russell Clayton will be back for their second year while Sean Brennan (Raiders) and Brenton MacDonald (Cumberland United) will be debuting for the Knights. Coach Tosh will be looking for some 'melta midfield magic' from three times Sergio Melta Medal Winner and biggest signing Simon Catanzaro to bring some lift to the squad. Heres hoping the Para boys can turn it around and mix it at the top this season.

Western Strikers will need to work hard this year to keep their place in the Super League. Coach Aldo

Maricic will have the services of the Lastella brothers Mikel and Daniele and exciting Japanese keeper Takumi Takahashi to secure their defence, but will miss their UK imports Chris Middleton and Callum Flanagan who have gone back to England along with Felipe Da Silva their play maker. Will be looking for good form from Joseph Ciarla, Adrian D'Alfonso, Chahine Noujam, Steven Stefanopoulos, and Steve McNeill to ensure they have a good chance of staying in the Super League.

Modbury Jets dominance in the Premier League under the coaching prowess of Earl Pudler saw them rewarded with promotion back to the Super league for 2011. Retaining most of their squad Pudler will be hoping for the same top football through the strength of keeper Paul Reilly, David Crawl, Todd McSorley and Shane Pearce. With the additions of 2010 Milan Ivanovic State League Player of the Year Nick Dawes (South Adelaide) and the 'angel of death' Damien Puy-enbroek (Cumberland United) the Jets will hopefully fly high in season 2011.

2010 Premier League Champions **Croydon Kings** will be hoping they don't lose their crowns as coach Emir Tarabar has the job ahead of him to ensure they challenge well. New signing goal keeper Dave Picca (ex Strikers, Adelaide City) will look to weave his magic between the sticks complimenting Michael Papacharalambous and Christopher D'Alfonso. Kings K's Luke Klimek and Konrad Kosznik hope to excite fans with the same type of speed and goal scoring abilities as they did in the Premier League. It will be a test for the Kings so the questions is will they be up for it? The competition will undoubtedly hot up during the season with all sides vying for top five spots to make the finals. Round 1 sees Adelaide Galaxy v Para Hills, Croydon Kings v Modbury Jets, Raiders v Campbelltown, Adelaide Blue Eagles v Adelaide City and Western Strikers v MetroStars.

Sorrento Let it Slip

By Ashley Morrison

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Football is supposed to be a thing of beauty, entertaining and showcasing skill and athleticism, but sadly the game between Floreat Athena who had drawn one and lost two games and Sorrento who had lost their only game of the season showcased none of these qualities.

It was a dour dull game that contained very few moments of inspiration, as both sides gave away cheap possession at vital moments.

The opening goal came in the fourteenth minute and it augured well for a lively game but it wasn't to be. Sorrento took the lead courtesy of a Jason Mirco penalty, as he sent Dunn in the Floreat goal the wrong way. The penalty seemed soft as David Price looked to force his way into the Floreat penalty area, and chose to run into the imposing figure of Ante Kovacevic rather than past him. The referee however deemed it was obstruction and pointed to the spot.

Sorrento at this point was undoubtedly the better of the two sides with Irish import Kyle Moran looking lively whenever he received the ball in space. In the 21st minute it was Moran who gave Sorrento the perfect chance to stretch their lead. He played a

pinpoint cross into the six yard box, but David Foster's diving header went the wrong side of the post.

Three minutes later and Floreat had pulled level. It was poor defending from Sorrento who never properly cleared Michael van Dongen's cross from the right. Collins kept the ball alive for Floreat, slipped it to Paul van Dongen who laid it off to young striker Liam Boland who swept the ball home.

Sorrento looked to strike back immediately Moran received the ball wide on the right and cut infield before curling a shot that had Dunn at full stretch. He could only parry the shot and Foster pounced on the rebound, but was adjudged to have been offside.

In the 38th minute they did restore their lead, the frustrating Doyle who continually looked good on the ball, but consistently failed to find a team mate slipped in behind the defence down the left, and swept in a low cross that Brodie Martin hammered home with a first time shot.

In the 50th minute Floreat, who made two changes at half time, should have pulled level again. Good work by Boland down the left saw him make space for a cross, and he picked out Ante Kovacevic who had ghosted in unmarked at the back post. The veteran defender threw himself

at the ball and connected with a powerful header, but watched in despair as it rebounded off the post.

Two minutes later they had another chance as they started to pressure Sorrento's defence. Cal-lum O'Connell skipped past the advancing goalkeeper Curtis As-pden, only to see Ryan Pearson clear off the line.

Aspden then pushed a long range effort from Paul Van Dongen around the post. His save looking more spectacular than it maybe needed to be. Aspden then had a funny fifteen minutes that must have given Paul Price heart palpitations. His handling became suspect, his kicking wasteful and when he ran to the edge of his box and missed a clearance it looked like James Isaia must score but this time Jamie Harn-well saved the 'keeper's blushes.

Sorrento withstood almost all that Floreat threw at them and looked a certainty to claim all three points. However the referee by most people in the ground's watches played an inexplicable five minutes of injury time, despite there having been no delays. Floreat won a corner. Ante Kovacevic swept the ball into the near post where the initial header was blocked. A goal mouth scramble ensued before substitute Phil Arnold poked the ball over the line.

As Sorrento kicked off the fi-



Sirling Lions new striker Anthony Skorich and Armadale skipper Steve McDonald in action at Macedonia Park. Photo: PETER SIMCOX

nal whistle sounded, which to be honest was a relief for most of the spectators who had been given few reasons to applaud anything on display.

In other games Inglewood United had a confidence building 3-1 win over NTC but the win does not give them any points on the league ladder. ECU Joondalup who impressed many in the Bam Creative Night series recaptured some of that form as they defeated Cockburn City 2-1 with goals from returned striker Ian McMurray and defender Gee.

Sirling Lions were desperate for a win having only had one draw

in their first three games. Another defeat many believing could have seen coach of the year Paul Lincoln's position become tenuous. However his charges eased the pressure on their coach with a 2-1 win over Armadale.

Last year's League Champions the Western Knights went behind to Mandurah City who have surprised many with the start they have made this season, but fought back to win 2-1. They sit equal top of the league with newly promoted Bayswater City who played Balcatta in a Sunday game. Perth had the bye this weekend.

All Flags WA Results

Saturday, 19th March 2011

First Team

Inglewood Utd 3 (Craig 45, Clark 65, Stamatiadis 72) NTC 1 (O'Brien 86); Floreat Athena 2 (Boland 24, Arnold 90+3) Sorrento 2 (Mirco 14p, Martin 38); ECU Joondalup 2 (McMurray 60, McGee 72) Cockburn City 1 (Grigo 23); Stirling Lions 2 (Watt 36, 48) Armadale 1 (Okai 45); Western Knights 2 (Mikulic 60, Ferguson 62) Mandurah City 1 (A Brown 33).

Reserves

Inglewood Utd 1 NTC 0; Floreat Athena 6 Sorrento 4; ECU Joondalup 2 Cockburn City 1; Stirling Lions 11 Armadale 0; Western Knights 5 Mandurah City 6.

Under 18's

Inglewood Utd NTC (Abandoned); Floreat Athena 3 Sorrento 3; ECU Joondalup 3 Cockburn City 2; Stirling Lions 0 Armadale 0; Western Knights 10 Mandurah City 0.

All Flags WA Premier League

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Bayswater City	3	2	1	0	5	1	4	7
2 Western Knights	3	2	1	0	5	2	3	7
3 ECU Joondalup	4	2	1	1	7	8	-1	7
4 Balcatta	3	2	0	1	8	4	4	6
5 Mandurah City	4	2	0	2	5	6	-1	6
6 Perth SC	3	1	1	1	5	4	1	4
7 Armadale	4	1	1	2	6	7	-1	4
8 Cockburn City	4	1	1	2	5	7	-2	4
9 Stirling Lions	4	1	1	2	6	9	-3	4
10 Inglewood United	2	1	0	1	3	2	1	3
11 Floreat Athena	4	0	2	2	5	8	-3	2
12 Sorrento	2	0	1	1	2	4	-2	1

Olympic Clip Eagles Wings As Panthers Find Bite

By Russ Gibbs

ACT

Canberra Olympic have brought Round One giant-killers White Eagles back to earth with a resounding bang in the latest Pool A action in the loop Federation Cup defeating the State League One high-fliers 4-0 at Woden Park whilst in Pool B Monaro Panthers were to strong for their local rivals Queanbeyan City, claiming the points in a 4-1 victory.

A brace of goals to flyer winger Oliver Wiederkehr did most to help Olympic see off the threat of White Eagles who were unable to replicate their stunning opening weekend success over Belconnen United. Dean Ugrinic's vibrant Olympic team were too slick on the vast expanses of Woden Park for the White Eagles and, after taking a 12th minute lead via the outstanding Jakob Williams, were never in any serious trouble. Wiederkehr's double sandwiched a striker from Mohsen Ravanparsa as Olympic kept up their 100% record in Pool A.

NIKE Chance Academy winner Tom Rogic was in blistering form as Belconnen United bounced back from their White Eagles setback to roll Tuggeranong United 5-1 at McKellar Park. Rogic was able to showcase his ample array of skills as the home team ruthlessly took the chances offered them by an exposed Tuggeranong. Nicky Rogers had given the Blue Dev-



Belconnen United's NIKE Chance Academy Winner Tom Rogic (in blue) goes past Tuggeranong United defender Jamie Currie (in green).

ils a ninth minute lead before Rogic skinned three defenders to slot in the second. A beauty from Dustin Wells, curling a shot into the top corner from 25 metres secured the points before the break. Daniel Beaumont struck a splendid solo goal for Tuggeranong to reduce the deficit before the break but another classic from Rogic and a second fro Wells had the Blue Devils smiling.

The match between Canberra City and Woden Valley was a much closer affair with City rekindling their loop Federation Cup hopes with a tight 2-0 win in a decent match, City opened the scoring four minutes before half-time when Nikola Taneski was adjudged by the assistant referee to have forced the ball over the line after tremendous approach work by Marc O'Neill. The points were wrapped up two minutes from

time when Pat Ross-Magee danced his way past a couple of challenges to smash home the second. To compound matters Woden had new recruit Jeremy Butler sent off after receiving two yellow cards.

Canberra FC march imperiously along in Pool B after crushing Weston Creek 5-0 at Woden Park. Having racked up sixteen goals against hapless Goulburn Strikers last weekend, the competition favourites rested several key players but were still too good for their State League One opposition. Victor Yanes starred for Canberra FC with a hat-trick, Adam Spaleta added his fifth competition goal this season, and livewire winger Josip Jadric was also on the score sheet.

Having been humbled 16-0 by Canberra FC in Round One Goulburn Strikers were crushed again this week as



Michael Reeves (Belconnen United) goes close to adding to the Blue Devils tally as they defeated Tuggeranong Untied 5-1.

Cooma Tigers hammered them 12-0. Elyja Shah led the scoring with four goals, taking him to five so far in the competition, whilst Alex Castro and Serdan Bircan bagged a double apiece. Further strikes from Tony Aleksovski, Ian Elliott, Jerry Ibarra and Daniel Colluciello finished off Goulburn who look to be in a spate of trouble early on.

The final match of the round saw Monaro Panthers bounce back from opening day defeat to see off local rivals Queanbeyan City 4-1 in their derby match at Hawker Football Centre. Having scored on debut last weekend new recruit Scott Jones further enhanced his reputation with a brace of well-taken goals with Daniel Colbertaldo and the hard-working Lukas Fuhrmann adding gloss to an excellent win.

ACT Top Scorers

5 Adam SPALETA (Canberra FC)
Elyja SHAH (Cooma Tigers)

4 Dustin WELLS (Belconnen United),
Victor YANES (Canberra FC)

3 Paul IVANIC Josip JADRIC (both Canberra FC), Alex CASTRO (Cooma Tigers),
Scott JONES (Monaro Panthers)

2 Tom ROGIC (Belconnen United),
Michael SPALETA (Canberra FC), Oliver WIEDERKEHR (Canberra Olympic), Serdan BIRCAN (Cooma Tigers), Daniel COLBERTALDO (Monaro Panthers), Tom HIRST,
Simon HINDE (both Woden Valley)

1 Nicky ROGERS (Belconnen United),
Euan PETERKIN Pat ROSS-MAGEE, Nikola TANESKI (all Canberra City), Ian GRAHAM, Matt GRBESA, Ryan KEIR, Ivan PAVLAK (all Canberra FC), James FIELD, Domenic GIAMPAOLO, Yianni KARABALIS, Mohsen RAVANPARSA, Jakob WILLIAMS (all Canberra Olympic) Tony ALEKSOVSKI, Daniel COLLUCIELLO, Ian ELLIOTT, Jerry IBARRA, Goran JOSIFOVSKI, Jair WILK (all Cooma Tigers), Lukas FUHRMANN, Mario POLEGUBIC (both Monaro Panthers), Daniel BEAUMONT (Tuggeranong United), Tom PAGETT (Weston Creek), Rory DEVLIN, Tadija MILADINOVIC, Milenko NOVAKOVIC (all White Eagles), own GOALS

ACT Results

Federation Cup – Match Results Pool A

Canberra Olympic 4 (Jakob Williams 12', Oliver Wiederkehr 30', 70, Mohsen Ravanparsa 50') White Eagles 0

Canberra City 2 (Nikola Taneski 41', Pat Ross-Magee 88') Woden Valley 0

Belconnen United 5 (Nicky Rogers 9', Tom Rogic 20', 46', Dustin Wells 29', 86') Tuggeranong United 1 (Daniel Beaumont 44')

Pool B

Canberra FC 5 (Josip Jadric 25', Victor Yanes 35', 65', 90', Adam Spaleta 48') Weston Creek 0

Cooma Tigers 12 (Elyja Shah (4), Serdan Bircan (2), Alex Castro (2), Tony Aleksovski, Ian Elliott, Jerry Ibarra, Daniel Colluciello) Goulburn Strikers 0

Monaro Panthers 4 (Scott Jones (2), Daniel Colbertaldo, Lukas Fuhrmann) Queanbeyan City 1 (own goal)

ACT Ladders

Pool A

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Canberra Olympic	2	2	0	0	21	0	+6	6
2 Belconnen United	2	1	0	1	7	4	+3	3
3 Woden Valley	2	1	0	1	4	2	+2	3
4 Canberra City	2	1	0	1	3	0	3	3
5 White Eagles	2	1	0	1	3	6	-3	3
6 Tuggeranong United	2	0	0	2	1	9	-8	0

Pool B

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Canberra FC	2	2	0	0	21	0	+21	6
2 Cooma Tigers	2	2	0	0	16	3	+13	6
3 Monaro Panthers	2	1	0	1	7	5	+2	3
4 Weston Creek	2	1	0	1	1	5	-4	3
5 Queanbeyan City	2	0	0	2	1	5	-4	0
6 Goulburn Strikers	2	0	0	2	0	28	-28	0

Konyit Rewarded After Keeping Faith

By Matthew McNamara

Josip Konyit is not a name many in Australian football would have heard of. But that may be about to change as the Dinamo Zagreb Youth player has been called up by Han Berger to the Football Federation Australia (FFA) training camp to be held in Germany later this month.

The aim of the training camp is to assess players for selection for the Qantas Socceroos, Young Socceroos and Qantas Joeys.

Konyit will be in good company at the camp, with former Melbourne Victory custodian Mitchell Langerak in attendance, as well as former AIS Captain and Newcastle Jets midfielder James Holland whilst former Brisbane Roar starlet Michael Zullo has also been called up.

However its the inclusion of Konyit, from the Melbourne suburb of Hillside, that is really exciting. A young Konyit began his junior career at St Albans saints, before moving to Melbourne Knights in his early teenage years. He earned his first call up to the Victorian Squad in 2007, where he was an integral part of the Victorian Metro squad which made it all the way to the final, only to be beaten by a late penalty in a 1-0 defeat at the National Championships.

He continued to represent Melbourne Knights in the Victorian Premier League 2009, before Melbourne Knights had

loaned out Joseph to Diamond Valley United, for further senior experience. At the end of a full 2009 season with Diamond Valley United, Joseph relocated to Croatia to join his current beloved club NK Dinamo Zagreb. "Dinamo had an academy in Melbourne and I went there. I did really well, and got asked to go to Croatia in December 2009. I've been here ever since. It was an opportunity to good to refuse."

A strong centre half, who can slot in at right back when required, Konyit was delighted to receive a call up to the training camp. "When I first got the message from the FFA I was excited and proud to be called up to the National Team Camp. It's been my childhood dream to play for Australia"

Konyit describes playing for Dinamo Zagreb as "a dream come true". "I grew up supporting Dinamo and to play here is wonderful. The facilities here are second to none. The professionalism is a different class"

When pressed on what the future may hold, Konyit admits that he has had trials in Germany "I've already had some interest shown in me from Almannia Aachen in Bundesliga 2 but nothing concrete as yet. If it happens, then great, but if not, I still love playing here at Dinamo".

Konyit knows what is required to step up to the next level and push for national team selection



"I've trained really hard to get to where I am at the moment at Dinamo, but to play for my country would be something special. I will do what I need to do, because I want it. I want to wear that Australian shirt - its something I've wanted since I was a child and now I have the potential opportunity to do it, I won't let anything hold me

back." And who does he thank for the opportunity "My parents and family have been so supportive, and my faith in God has allowed me to get to where I am today."

With that sort of desire, the future certainly looks bright for Konyit and Goal! Weekly wishes him well at the upcoming Australian training camp.



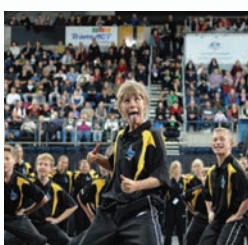
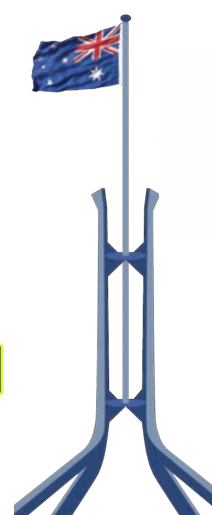
Josip Konyit gets accustomed to living the dream of a professional footballer with NK Dinamo Zagreb in Croatia. After playing with the Melbourne Knights in the VPL Josip is now on the radar of national team selectors.



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Starting with a HUGE opening ceremony on the Sunday, all teams will play pool matches on Monday to Wednesday with Semi Finals and Consolation matches on the Thursday before Grand Finals on the Friday. Teams will play a minimum of one and maximum of two matches per day. Off the field is an action packed schedule that includes the Movie Night, Players Disco, Team Officials Dinner, Player of the tournament and Fair Play Awards plus much more.

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Contact: Adam Castle, Tournament Director

Email: kangacup@capitalfootball.com.au

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*Players Disco



*Movie Night

NORTHCOTE CITY FC

SEASON 2011



PHOTO: PETER PSARRROS

Back Row L-R: Aaron Ward, Matthew Lazarides, Kristian Konstandinidis, Hayden D'Agostino, Adrian Chiappetta, Rodrigo Covarrubias, Alvaro Carrillo, George McHeileh.
Middle Row L-R: Gon Fotiadis (Team Manager), Paul Savio, Harry Kingopoulos, Anton Jankovski, Charlie Treacy, Chris Petropoulos, Nicholas Curtis, Nick Tzoulis, Sam Torrens, George Giannou, Kyle Michelle (Physio).
Front Row L-R: Dean Piemonte, Jason Trifiro, Jonathan Voulgaris, Peter Tsolakis (Head Coach), Trent Rixon(Captain), Goran Lozanovski (Assistant Coach), James Kalifatidis, Eddie Soares, Glen Trifiro.
Absent: Robert Graskoski (Goalkeeper Coach)



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Saxon Sports EPL Comp Round 9 Wrap Up

WE'RE getting down to the business end of the season and with the premiership night coming closer and closer, no team wants to lie down at this stage.

Wolverhampton came up against Chelsea for the second time this season. With both teams sharing top spot before this round and a very close first encounter between the two teams, this game was always going to be match of the round, if not match of the season! Wolverhampton kicked away to a 3 goal lead early in the game, but Chelsea weren't going to let what happened to them last time happen again tonight.

They fought back hard to be even with the Wolves (7-7) with 1 minute to go, but the Wolverhampton striker kicked the winning goal with 10 seconds to go, proving that they are the team to beat in Group A.

Newcastle has fought back from last place winning a very tight one against Liverpool tonight 4-3. This win makes it 2 in a row for Newcastle, putting them into 3rd spot for Group B. They've almost locked themselves in for finals if all results go their way in the final round.

Tottenham convincingly beat Arsenal 11-4 which puts them into 4th place for Group A, if all results go their way this coming

Wednesday, 4th is where they will finish up for the season, which will lock them in for finals.

Blackburn remains on there winning ways, beating Fulham 5-0. No team has beaten them throughout the season and with 1 game remaining, they come up against 2nd placed Birmingham. Can Birmingham be the first team to defeat them?

Other results of the round were: Manchester City 10 v West Ham 4, Birmingham 9 v Everton 6.

Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Wolverhampton	8	7	0	1	55	36	28
2 Manchester City	9	6	2	1	68	54	28
3 Chelsea	9	6	0	3	90	62	24
4 Tottenham	9	4	0	5	78	56	16
5 West Ham	9	3	1	5	49	49	14
6 Arsenal	9	3	1	5	47	56	14

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Blackburn	9	9	0	0	83	26	36
2 Birmingham	9	6	0	3	59	32	24
3 Newcastle	9	4	0	5	46	54	16
4 Fulham	9	4	0	5	55	70	16
5 Liverpool	9	3	0	6	46	66	12
6 Everton	9	1	0	8	37	78	4

The Saxon Sports EPL trophy. Winners are in line to share \$2500 worth of prize money.

WAG OF THE WEEK



Nikoleta Lozanova Age:23 Was offside with Dimitri Berbatov (Man Utd)

Couch Potato Dept.

* ALL TIMES ARE AEST



SBS ONE
Monday March 21st
4:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial
11:30 pm The World Game

Sunday 27th March
10:30 am Football Asia - Provides the latest news and updates of the various football leagues across Asia.

11:00 am Les Murray's Football Feature
Euro 2012 Qualifier: Spain v Czech Republic.

12:00 pm UEFA Champions League
Magazine Program
2:00 pm Nerds F.C

SBS TWO
Monday March 21st
9:30 pm The World Game

Wednesday March 23rd
11:25 pm Film: Tickets - Three interwoven stories set during a train journey from Central Europe to Rome. On board is a lonely professor, a family of Albanian refugees with stolen tickets, three brash Scottish soccer fans en route to a match, and a grumpy widow travelling to a memorial service for her late husband. Directed by Ermanno Olmi, Abbas Kiarostami and Ken Loach, and stars Carlo Delle Piane, Valeria Bruni Tedeschi and Silvana De Santis. (From Italy, in Italian and English, English subtitles) (Comedy) (2005) (Rpt)



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
No matches scheduled from March 21-29 due to International fixtures.

ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Tuesday 22 March
League One
MK Dons v Peterborough
6.30 am



Tuesday 22nd March
03:00 am Serie A (Rpt) Matchday 30: Lazio V Cesena
05:00 am Bundesliga (Rpt) Matchday 27: Freiburg V Bayern Munich
06:00 am Bundesliga (Cont) (Rpt) Matchday 27: Freiburg V Bayern Munich
10:30 pm World Football News
11:15 pm Liverpool TV Sunderland V Liverpool

Wednesday 23rd March
06:00 am The Serie A Highlights Show
06:30 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights
07:30 am World Football News (Rpt)

Thursday 24th March
05:00 am Serie A (Rpt) Matchday 30: Inter Milan V Lecce
12:00 pm Arsenal TV West Bromwich Albion V Arsenal



Monday 21st March
1:30am Scottish League Cup Final - Celtic vs Rangers **LIVE**
5am Bundesliga - Stuttgart vs Wolfsburg
6:40am Serie A - Napoli vs Cagliari **LIVE**
9:00am Serie A - Juventus vs Brescia
10:45am Serie A - Udinese vs Catania
3pm Serie A - Sampdoria vs Parma
4:45pm Bundesliga - Leverkusen vs Schalke
11:30pm Serie A - Bologna vs Genoa

Tuesday 22nd March
3:00am Serie A - Bari vs Chievo
4:45am Portuguese Liga - Porto vs Academica
6:30am Eredivisie - Den Haag vs Ajax

Wednesday 23rd March
6am Setanta Sports Cup Quarter-Final 2nd Leg - Dundalk vs Glentoran

Thursday 24th March
11:45am Copa Libertadores - Fluminense vs America **LIVE**

Saturday 26th March
4:45pm League of Ireland Teams TBC

Sunday 27th March
3:55am Euro 2012 Qualifier - Georgia vs Croatia **LIVE**

Tuesday 29th March
5:40am International - England U21 vs Iceland U21 **LIVE**

Wednesday 30th March
5:30am International - England vs Ghana **LIVE**



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Extra Time Magazine Show
Every Tuesday 7.30pm

SMFC TV
Channel 31
Every Wed 7pm

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FULL NAME: Jean Charles Dubois
BIRTHPLACE: Thonon Les Bains 74 France
BIRTH DATE: 12/04/1985
HEIGHT: 186cm **WEIGHT:** 79kg
MARRIED: No
CAR: Land Cruiser
NICKNAME: Frenchie
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Servette de Geneve SFC (Switzerland)
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: None
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Zidane and Cantona
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Benzema
FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER: Hernandez
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Viduka
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Tim Cahill
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: Semi Finals French Cup GF38 vs Nantes
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: France vs Brasil 2006
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: Scissor kick last year
EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: When Marseille won the Champions League 1993
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Too many!
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: None
WORST INJURY: Crack of the Achilles tendon
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: FC Basel
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Oakleigh
SUPERSTITIONS: Have a siesta before the game
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Pasta
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: My dribbling
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: My left foot
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Marseille
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Ski snowboard
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Federer
FAVOURITE FOODS: French cheese
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Roberto Benigni
HOBBIES: Poker , cooking
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: My home family
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: My bed
IDEAL DATE: 25 Decembre
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Malcom in the Middle
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Electro, Hip Hop
FAVOURITE FILM: Life is Beautiful
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Marseille
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: None
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My girl friend
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Crack of the Achilles tendon (7months)
FOOTBALL AMBITION: Play in A-League
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? : Arsen Wenger
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S VPL: Melbourne Knights



PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

Melbourne Knights FC Jean Charles Dubois

WPL Prepares for Season Kick Off

By Niki Cook

The Victorian Women's Premier League kicked off this coming weekend, with all teams playing their Round One matches at DISC in a gala opening to the season. The league has undergone something of a revamp this season, with two new representative teams participating in the competition, along with Bundoora United and Doncaster Rovers who were promoted from State League 1. This sees the competition increase from nine to eleven teams, although there will apparently be some provisos for the newly created teams. With under a week to the start of the season, clubs are still yet to receive confirmation regarding how these provisos will affect finals and relegation, and so head into the competition somewhat in the dark.

Regardless of the final rules of competition, there are signs that the 2011 season could be one of the WPL's most open in years. There have been few changes in coaching personnel, but plenty of player movement, as tends to be the case in the off season. The only coaching casualty was also a significant one, with Debbie Nicholls departing company with Casey Comets after over a decade in charge of the club. She has since joined Sandringham as an assistant coach, with Ian Williamson taking over at the Comets.

The new clubs to join the league, VCL Country and the Emerging Athletes Program (EAP), give up-and-coming players from both regional and metropolitan areas the opportunity to further their development by competing in the top league in the state. Both teams will have the advantage of having been able to select their squads from cream of the state's youth, and they will also benefit from the coaching experience of Sean Douglas and Bobby McGuinness respectively. Neither team will be required to field a Reserves side, enabling



Box Hill United (formerly Inter) will be looking to make it 9 titles in ten years. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

them to focus all their efforts on one team. Both teams will be extremely youthful, which could be both a positive and negative, given that they will be competing in an adult competition.

With the VCL Country squad being drawn from a range of regional areas, it may find it challenging to gel the players together. The rumoured major advantage that VCL Country and EAP will both have, is that neither team can be relegated. While they will play for points, the teams can also not make finals. Yet to be confirmed is what impact this will have on the rest of the league, as the FFV will need to confirm which teams would then be relegated or play finals, should either of these teams occupy those positions.

With the same two teams, Box Hill United and Heidelberg United, having played off in the last five Grand Finals, it seems logical that they would once again seem to be the teams to beat.

Box Hill United has merged with Southern Suburbs, hence the change in name, but the impact of that on its senior women's team is likely to be minimal. As is its wont, it has been cagey in the pre-season, using competitions like the Hellenic Cup to trial new or younger players, rather than fielding its strongest side. The final make up of its team may be unknown, but few would bet against it again occupying one of the top spots in the league.

Heidelberg United has lost some players, but it also benefited from

the coaching change at Casey Comets, with a number of its players choosing to move to Heidelberg. Its fortunes may hinge on how successfully it is able to integrate those new players into its existing squad.

Sandringham and Ashburton occupied the other two finals positions in 2010, but they will find plenty of other teams hot on their heels this year. With Debbie Nicholls moving to Sandringham, several players also joined her, adding extra depth to an already competitive squad, which should benefit them in their drive to go one better than last season's Preliminary Final. Ashburton is another club that has seen several personnel depart for other teams, but it has the advantage of an extensive junior

program from which to replenish its stocks. It was successful in winning the Hellenic Cup in the pre-season, so it goes into the season in buoyant form.

The performance of Casey Comets should be one of the most interesting things to observe in the WPL this season, given the turnover in the club over the off season. It has the benefit of a new coach with plenty of experience coaching women, but it has lost many of its players, and so may be lacking in experience on the field. Having historically been one of the strongest teams in the WPL, it has suffered a lean spell in recent years, but showed signs of emerging from that at times last year.

Whether the off season changes prove a catalyst for the team to

take the next step to playing finals, or whether it proves a setback, only time will tell.

South Melbourne will be looking to have a more consistent season than 2010, when it started poorly and finished strongly. Their change in fortunes coincided with the arrival of coach Alan Davidson, so they will be aiming to continue and build on the performances from the latter stages of the season.

Having avoided relegation with a battling finish to the year, Altona City will also be looking for more consistency this year, if it is to maintain its position in the WPL. It has benefited from the relegation of Preston Lions, picking up several players from there, which will give it additional valuable experience on the park.

The two new sides, Bundoora United and Doncaster Rovers, both join the WPL for the first time. Bundoora were promoted as champions of State League 1, finishing four points clear of Doncaster. They have recruited strongly in the off season, attracting several players with W-League experience, which will obviously boost its chances of success. Doncaster comes in as an unknown quantity, but it is evidently a club with ambition and drive, having been promoted twice in two years.

The action begins in earnest next Sunday, with all teams in action at DISC. The season did actually begin this weekend, with VCL Country taking on EAP, with EAP triumphing 2-1. VCL Country is action in the round's first game, when it takes on Ashburton at midday. Two more games kick-off at 1pm, when South Melbourne takes on Casey Comets, and the newly promoted teams, Bundoora United and Doncaster Rovers, face off against each other. Altona City meets Sandringham at 4pm, with the final game of the round being the Grand Final rematch between Heidelberg United and Box Hill United at 5pm.

A Fans View of The Pain in Spain

By Josh Landy

EVEN in my most pessimistic moments when travelling on the plane from London to Barcelona for the big Champions League tie the other week could I imagine that I would be taking a flight for every touch Arsenal would get in the Barcelona penalty area.

Two touches. Two flights. Two goals once Van Persie was sent off that would make it two goals difference on the night. But actually 'Two' wasn't the story of the night, it was that Barcelona were quite simply way too good.

Watching Arsenal under Arsene Wenger has on the whole been incredibly enjoyable. Some of the football we've witnessed has been mesmerising. Under Wenger Arsenal went 49 games unbeaten in the toughest league in the world, have won the 'Double' twice and went all the way to the Champions League Final in 2006. At times we have been applauded from all corners for the 'beautiful football'. But, with nothing to show in terms

of silverware for the quality of football since a fortunate FA Cup Final victory over Manchester United in 2005, the critics have been louder than ever.

Sitting in my seat at Wembley Stadium after the debacle of the last two minutes of the game against Birmingham City in the Carling Cup Final, which saw Arsenal gift victory to the Blues with a horrendous defensive mix up, I was enduring what Wenger has increasingly started to ensure Arsenal fans go through – frustration.

For the last five years we have at times, looked like we're going to annihilate everything before us and yet somehow by the time late March or April come around, we've managed to find a way to let it all fall apart. As I slowly left Wembley a few weeks ago, I thought that either this moment will pale into insignificance if we can beat Barcelona and march on in the Champions League and the Premier League, or in May, having won nothing at all again, the fans will remember in anguish how we should have beaten a very average Birmingham side to

at least end a trophy drought.

Having beaten Barcelona 2-1 in the first leg of our last sixteen Champions League tie, it was not totally unrealistic to imagine we could advance, but about ten minutes into our game in the Neu Camp, it was clear what was to befall us. We were embarrassed throughout the game, it was like watching a defenceless child being toyed with by a bigger and heavier older brother.

For the first time since detailed records of all Champions League matches were kept from 2003, a team had no attempts on goal during the 90 minutes. Unbelievable. No shots on goal from the team who usually play teams into submission in the Premier League. Barcelona did unto Arsenal what Arsenal do unto others. Except better, far better.

When Guardiola said in his press conference before the game that he hoped Robin Van Persie, the start striker for Arsenal, would be fit for the game, he was being serious. So good is his side that he quite simply doesn't care who you send out against them – they'll win. As Arsenal

fans around me on leaving the stadium spoke about how we were missing Theo Walcott, Alex Song and Thomas Vermaelen, I thought that even if we'd had the best eleven players seen under Arsene Wenger we'd have struggled badly. For sure, David Seaman, Tony Adams, Patrick Vieira and Thierry Henry among others would have given them a good game, but no team I've ever seen has come remotely close to matching how Barcelona currently play football.

On hitting the tarmac back in London one feeling cheered me up slightly. With Arsenal the problem over the last few years has been dropping points or losing matches to teams that we are much better than, but this was different – this was a rare occasion where you just have to hold your hands up and say 'the best team won'. No, actually, let's be honest, the 'best team in the world' won and within a day of the game I had changed from the familiar feeling of frustration to admiration. It's far easier to get over this way.



Lionel Messi celebrates with his teammates after scoring his second goal during Barcelona's win over Arsenal in the UCL Round of 16.

LONDON CALLING



With Leroy Robinson in the UK

AT the start of the season one could rely on several facts of life – death, taxes and that Steven Gerrard and Rio Ferdinand would be the lynchpins of their respective teams.

These are the guys that fans, coaches and colleagues take for granted because they are always there. But something is happening. Slowly, age is catching up to these stalwarts.

Not only are they are showing signs of wear and tear but they are losing their influence in the one place where it matters – on the pitch.

When England manager Fabio Capello most likely announces John Terry as his new (and old) England captain, the old captain and vice captain will be two players who are most affected.

Steven Gerrard

As if to emphasise a truly awful season for England and Liverpool midfielder Steven Gerrard, in the space of seven days Liverpool announced the successful completion of his groin operation, with a likely return in early to mid April. On the heels of this was a quote from Fabio Capello which must have felt like a kick in the groin.

He was quoted in a newspaper of saying this about the England captaincy:

"I think after one year of punishment that is enough for a mistake," he said. "For this reason, I need to make a decision about this problem. It does not need to be captain for one game, it needs to be permanent. Before I announce a decision I want to speak with Terry, with the players, but in the end it will be my decision. Rio was captain, but my first captain was John Terry. Rio was a good captain, so was Steven Gerrard, but I selected Terry first until his mistake."

Of course, Capello's sole mistake was taking the captaincy away from Terry in the first place. He was either good enough to be captain or not. If he wasn't good enough don't give it back. What is laughable is the idea that he considers giving the captaincy to Rio, and the vice captaincy to Gerrard, as a punishment to John Terry.

If Gerrard is overlooked as full-time captain, this state of affairs will most likely have more of an effect on his ego rather than his game. It may even be a blessing, allowing Gerrard to focus on getting himself fit to play a part in Liverpool's push for a Europa League place at the expense of Stuttering Hotspurs.

Will Gerrard be the same player of yesteryear when he comes back? That's highly unlikely. His game relies more on dynamism and drive rather than sparkling technique and craft. This season he has been totally ineffective to the point where, even if he were available for transfer there may not be many takers at the £50million price tag he would have gotten a few years ago. In fact, it could be argued that his central midfield place is under threat by the excellent Jack Wilshere. Assuming the 19 year-old gets a starting birth when (not if!) England qualifies for the European Championships, it's hard to see where the Lampard-Gerrard combo can fit in if Wilshere plays. Given Capello's seemingly endless love for Terry and Lampard, it wouldn't be beyond fiction for him to bench Gerrard and use him as an impact substitute.

Having said all this, an in-form Gerrard remains one of the finest central midfield players in Europe. The problem is his stats say he is on the decline, at least by his own high standards.

2005-06 was his breakout season, when he scored 22 goals and had 11 assists from 52 games in all competitions. In 2008-09 he reached new heights in his career with 29 goals and 13 assists from 58 games. And yet in 2009-10 his performances were not only mediocre (mirroring those of the club in Rafael Benitez's final season) his stats (13 goals, 10 assists from 48 games) were likewise.

Gerrard is now 30 and if a player's prime is from 27-32 he should have a few good years left. However, given the type of dynamic player he is - relying on his tireless work rate as much as his lethal distance shooting - he has to be compared not with the craftsmen of the midfielders like Andrea Pirlo or Xavi, but with prototypical bruisers like Lothar Matthäus, who is more the same player as Gerrard (lethal shot, midfield combatant).

He retired at the age of 39 so, if Gerrard is so inclined, he has nine cracks to win that elusive league title.

For the sake of balance, Gerrard's decline this season has coincided with the need to adjust his game for the inclusion of Raul Meireles into the Anfield set-up, meaning Steve is playing in a more withdrawn role and not making as many lung-busting runs.

Four goals in 20 league starts tells its own story. Yet surely the fact he has given way to the Portuguese is an indictment of his poor form and



How long will Steve Gerrard's legs last him? While Rio Ferdinand takes a breather to rest his knee.

waning abilities?

Surely it is Meireles (who before joining the reds had scored 15 goals in 138 appearances for FC Porto) who should adapt to the team and not Gerrard who should play deeper?

It used to be that Liverpool played to Gerrard's strengths but now it is Gerrard having to play to Liverpool's. Whether as a deeper lying midfielder or a midfielder marauder, Gerrard still has a few good years left, as long as the desire is still there.

Rio Ferdinand

Poor Rio Ferdinand. He's spent more time tweeting than he has playing. In contrast to Gerrard, it has to be accepted that Rio is on his last legs as a pro footballer. This season he has played 24 times and last season he played 23, having previously turned out for the Red Devils on 59, 52, 58, 52 and 45 times. Production is down; time on the computer is up.

He'll be 33 in November, hardly an old man when one considers Paulo Maldini played with Milan until aged 40. The difference is Ferdinand has always relied on terrific acceleration and speed more than concentration, anticipation and positioning, and he's not an Italian defender, they're just better at it. There's nothing wrong with a player of Ferdinand's quality relying on those attributes...until they

get a calf injury that is likely to sideline them for the season.

It may well be that Ferdinand comes back stronger and in great condition next season, but given this is a player who relies on his speed, the knee injury he suffered at the World Cup and the latest injury don't augur well for his longevity.

It's no wonder he'll lose the captaincy. He's older than Terry and is useless if he's not playing. Germany did the same thing, making Philip Lahm their permanent captain when Ballack got injured before last year's World Cup. The real question is what's going to happen to Rio's career now? At club level he still has something to give and, alongside Nemanja Vidic, he still provides one of the best centre back pairings in the league. At England level though there are players around that can do just as good a job without the injury worries.

Whereas it would be a surprise if Capello discarded him altogether, Rio's injury has given players such as Gary Cahill a chance to prove themselves. He isn't ready to be a fulltime starter yet, so a fit and on-form Rio will certainly start next year in Poland and Ukraine. However, don't be surprised if, after the 2012 European Championships, Rio does what United players Giggs and Scholes did – announce early retirement from international

football to devote the last part of his great career on the league.

Wheel of Misfortune

When a big money transfer takes place there are usually winners and losers from the deal. One club gets the money but loses a player and has a weakened team, unless they sign a replacement. The Andrew Carroll to Newcastle - Torres to Chelsea deal could be that rarity in football; a situation where everyone loses. Newcastle gets the money, loses a goal scorer. By relying on the fact that the other teams below them are rubbish they have gambled massively that they will stay up. The gamble will probably pay off but the fallout, if they keep getting hammered like they were at Stoke on Saturday, will carry over to next season, especially if they don't reinvest in two strikers and a central defender..

Having witnessed some of Andrew Carroll's performance against Sporting Braga it is hard to blame him for the result. However, if Liverpool's tactics with Carroll – equivalent to tossing the ball in the air early and often and hoping someone runs onto knockdowns – continue Liverpool will become predictable and can forget any hope of the top four next season. They were missing Suarez and Gerrard so the jury is out on Carroll, but juries in football don't take long to reach a verdict.

As for Torres, he hasn't scored yet and looks like what he is: an out of sorts striker. Yes, he will score eventually, but let me just throw some names at you: Darren Bent, Kevin Nolan, Javier Hernandez, Rafael van der Vaart and Robin van Persie. What do they all have in common? They have scored more goals than Torres and their combined transfer fees don't match the £50million Chelsea were rumoured to have paid. So it seems you don't always get what you pay for.

It's a Number's Game

Here are some numbers that may surprise you. All are league stats.

11 – The number of goals the top Englishmen has scored in the league after 29 rounds, courtesy of Darren Bent, Andrew Carroll and Kevin Nolan.

10 – The number of assists by Everton's left back Leighton Baines, West Brom's Chris Brunt and Cesc Fabregas.

2 – Number of assists by Spurs winger Aaron Lennon. He's in great company – John Obi Mikel and Alex Song have two. The difference is these players regard crossing the halfway line as so foreign they'd would need a passport to do so.

1 – Assists by Gareth Bale. So much praise for so little output. Best left-sided player in the world? Is it the 1st of April?

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Berbatov grabs late Man Utd win

EPL:
MANCHESTER UNITED extended their lead at the top of the table to five points after a hard fought 1-0 win over Bolton Wanderers, in which Jonny Evans was sent off.

Manchester United controlled the vast majority of the game, but failed to find that killer pass to release Mexican forward Chicharito. Wayne Rooney came close on a number of occasions with some brilliant efforts on goal, but time and time again his shots were off target my a matter of inches.

Half time substitute Dimitar Berbatov proved the difference when he coolly finished after Jussi Jaaskelainen failed to hold a powerful shot from Nani. For Bolton, it was a case of what might have been, as Mark Taylor failed to score just prior to Berbatov's winner when he put his free header straight into Van Der Sar's hands.

Saturday's early kick off produced a 0-0 draw between Tottenham and West Ham. Tottenham were largely the better team, managing a massive 31 shots. Spurs hit the woodwork twice in the second half alone and will be undoubtedly frustrated as they failed to capitalize on a number of chances. The result is a massive blow to their Champions League aspirations for next season, and represents the sixth time Spurs have failed to win after playing in Europe.

Tottenham's North London rivals also struggled and were forced to settle for a point at lowly West Brom, in another blow to their title challenge. Arsenal were lucky to come away with anything, after they found themselves 2-0 down. Steven Reid scored from a corner in only the 3rd minute, before another horrendous mix up at the back in the 58th minute allowed Odemwingie one of the easier goals he will ever score.

Arsenal spurred themselves on to a point however, with two goals in the space of eight minutes. Andrei Arshavin sparked the comeback when he found the net following a superb passage of play. Arshavin played provider too, when his cross was not sufficiently dealt with by the Albion defense, allowing Van Persie to poke the ball home from close range.

Another loss for Aston Villa, this time to rivals Wolverhampton Wanderers, means that the Villains now linger only one point above the relegation zone, greatly increasing the pressure on Gerard Houlier, who has done little to endear himself to the Villa faithful. Despite enjoying by far the more possession, Villa failed to convert that possession into goals, allowing Matt Jarvis to score the winner in the 38th minute with a glorious finish.

There was also bad news for Newcastle fans, as they watched their side lose 4-0 to an impressive Stoke side. Pardew will be eager to move on, but there was no denying that Newcastle simply failed to show up on the day. Jonathan Walters scored the first in the 28th minute, before Stoke added three in the second half through Pennant, Higginbotham and Fuller.

Wigan Athletic produced a



Dimitar Berbatov's late goal gives 10-man Manchester United a 1-0 victory over Bolton and takes their lead at the top of the Premier League to five points.

massive result to reignite their survival hopes. The DW Stadium was silenced when Liam Ridgwell scored the opener in the 6th minute. Ridgwell, as well as two other Birmingham players, looked offside but there was no flag. Wigan might have been forgiven for feeling like it might have been another one of those days, but thankfully for them, they found the spirit to overturn the deficit and run out 2-1 winners. Manchester United loan start Tom Cleverley got the equalizer from close range, before Figueroa sealed the points in the final minute.

There was more last minute drama at Ewood Park as David Hoilett snatched a point for Blackburn against Blackpool.

The visitors were 2-0 to the good within thirty minutes after Charlie Adam snatched a quick fire brace. He converted a 25th minute penalty with ease before taking a sublime free kick only four minutes later. Blackburn fought back brilliantly however and deservedly won a point, dramatic as it may have been.

Louis Saha proved the difference again for Everton, as the Merseyside outfit ran out 2-1 winners over Mark Hughes' Fulham at Goodison Park. Seamus Coleman put Everton a goal to the good in the 36th minute, before the Frenchman drove home a superb free kick for his tenth of the season. Clint Dempsey did manage to pull one back, but it wasn't enough, as Jermaine Beckford missed a glorious opportunity to bury the visitors in added time.

Bundesliga:
League leaders Borussia Dortmund were again held, giving Bayer Leverkusen a glorious chance to cut their lead down to seven points should they win on Sunday.

Dortmund would come to regret Nuri Sahin's penalty miss in the 19th minute. Had he converted Borussia would have been 2-0 up, after Mats Hummels had already opened the scoring, and comfortable. The hosts never really looked at ease after that and Mainz managed to snatch a point in the 89th minute when Sliskovic converted one of only three shots on target.

Bayern Munich reacted positively to their loss in Europe earlier this week, beating SC Freiburg

2-1. It was far from a comfortable win however as Papis Demba Cisse missed from the spot in the 14th minute, after Mario Gomez had put Bayern a goal to the good in the 9th minute. Cisse did manage to score three minutes later however, to level the score, before Frank Ribery ensured the travelling side could go home with three points, when he scored in the 88th minute.

There was cause for celebration in Bremen, as struggling Werder managed a superb performance to win 3-1 over Nurnberg to hoist themselves out of the relegation zone. Bremen did receive two penalties, whilst Nurnberg had a man sent off. Wagner scored from the spot in the 27th minute for Bremen, before they were instantly pulled back three minutes later when Gundogan equalized. Pizarro put the visitors in front again in the 50th minute, before Wagner secured a brace, and more importantly the three points, with another fine spot kick.

Hannover held onto 3rd spot for another week after seeing off TSG Hoffenheim 2-0. Konan and Abdellaoue got the goals for Hannover as they stay in the hunt for Champions League football next term. Frankfurt also managed a win, over relegation threatened St. Pauli. The win has given Frankfurt some breathing space between themselves and the drop zone. Gekas scored both the goals, converting a 34th minute penalty, before scoring the winner in the 77th minute, to cancel out Takyi's 42nd minute equalizer. Hamburg turned in the performance of the day, thrashing FC Cologne 6-2. Croatian Mladen Petric snatched a hat trick, opening the scoring in the 12th minute, before adding two more in the 38th and 43rd. Ben-Hatira, Kacar and Ze Roberto were the other goal scorers in an emphatic performance which puts Hamburg four points away from a Europa League spot.

La Liga:
There were wins for Spain's two biggest clubs on Saturday night, meaning the title race remains as it was prior to kick off.

Both Barcelona and Real Madrid managed to win 2-1 meaning the gap remains at five points between the two epic rivals. Dani Alves scored an absolute thumper on the half volley to put Barce-

lona up after only 17 minutes, whilst Bojan added a second in the 50th minute with a great strike of his own. Getafe pulled one back in the 88th minute, but failed to find a second, despite pushing for a late equalizer.

Real Madrid's win came over much tougher opposition in the Madrid derby. Atletico seemed reasonable confident prior to kick off, but they were given a harsh reality check when in form Frenchman Karim Benzema struck in the 11th minute. Scoring his tenth goal in eight games, Benzema has gone a long way to silencing his many critics after a less than impressive debut season at the club. Ozil doubled the visitors' lead in the 32nd minute. Argentinean Sergio Aguero pulled one back in the 86th minute.

In the only other game played on Saturday, Jonathan De Guzman scored the only goal of a dull game between Mallorca and Real Zaragoza in the 67th minute to win all three points for Mallorca. The result means Mallorca are four points of a Europa League berth, despite having played a game more than their fellow contenders.

Serie A:
Only two games were played on Saturday this weekend in the Italian top flight. Palermo managed a shock win over league leaders AC Milan, presenting Inter Milan with a great chance to peg back their rivals on Sunday.

Dorin Goian's goal in the 10th minute was enough to beat a flat and uninspiring Rossonieri outfit. Content with their one goal lead, Palermo were content to sit back and try and hit Milan on the break, seeing out the win with relative comfort.

The only other fixture to be played saw Lazio run out 1-0 winners over relegation threatened Cesena. It was another early goal that won the points, as Cesena could not find an answer to Mauro Zarate's 2nd minute opener. The result does wonders for Lazio's hopes of Champions League football next season, and puts Cesena only one point outside the relegation zone, having played a game more than the other relegation candidates.

UK Results

Barclays Premier League
Aston Villa 0-1 Wolverhampton
Blackburn 2-2 Blackpool
Everton 2-1 Fulham
Man Utd 1-0 Bolton
Stoke 4-0 Newcastle
Tottenham 0-0 West Ham
West Brom 2-2 Arsenal
Wigan 2-1 Birmingham

Npower Championship
Barnsley 0-1 Reading
Bristol City 2-0 Burnley
Crystal Palace 2-2 Derby
Doncaster 0-1 QPR
Hull 1-1 Norwich
Ipswich 2-0 Scunthorpe
Leicester 0-1 Portsmouth
Middlesbrough 2-1 Watford
Millwall 3-3 Cardiff
Preston 2-1 Coventry
Sheff Utd 2-0 Leeds
Swansea 3-2 Nott'm Forest

Npower League One
Brentford 2-1 Leyton Orient
Carlisle 1-0 Bournemouth
Dag & Red 2-1 Charlton
Exeter 2-3 Yeovil
Huddersfield 0-0 Swindon
Notts County 0-1 Bristol Rovers
Oldham 0-1 Brighton
Plymouth 0-1 Rochdale
Southampton 2-0 Sheff Wed
Tranmere 1-0 Colchester
Walsall 5-2 Hartlepool

Npower League Two
Accrington Stanley 3-0 Port Vale
Aldershot 1-0 Stockport
Barnet 1-2 Morecambe
Bradford 1-1 Northampton
Burton Albion 1-1 Gillingham
Bury 2-3 Cheltenham
Macclesfield 3-3 Torquay
Oxford Utd 2-1 Crewe
Shrewsbury 1-1 Wycombe
Stevenage 2-1 Lincoln City

Clydesdale Bank Premier League
Dunfermline 1-0 Inverness CT
Hamilton 0-0 St Johnstone
Hearts 3-2 St Mirren
Kilmarnock 3-1 Motherwell

Blue Square Bet Premier
Aldershot 2-0 Tamworth
Bath City 2-1 Grimsby
Cambridge Utd 2-1 York
Eastbourne Boro 0-2 Barrow
Fleetwood Town 1-0 Wrexham
Forest Green 0-0 Newport County
Hayes & Yeading 3-2 Kettering
Rushden & D'mnds 2-2 Southport

Scottish Football League Championship
First Division
Dunfermline 4-1 Stirling
Falkirk 2-2 Dundee
Morton 0-0 Raith Rovers
Partick Thistle 0-1 Cowdenbeath
Ross County 1-2 Queen of South

Scottish Football League Championship
Second Division
Airdrie Utd 2-2 Stenhousemuir
Alloa 2-2 Brechin
Dumbarton 4-2 East Fife
Forfar 0-4 Livingston
Peterhead 1-2 Ayr

Scottish Football League Championship
Third Division
Albion 1-1 Clyde
Annan Athletic 2-1 Montrose
Berwick 3-1 Queen's Park
East Stirling 2-5 Arbroath
Stranraer 1-2 Elgin

The FA Carlsberg Trophy
Gateshead 0-0 Darlington (agg 2-3)
Luton 1-1 Mansfield (agg 1-2)

Blue Square Bet North
Blyth Spartans 1-0 Nuneaton
Boston Utd 2-2 Harrogate Town
Corby 0-2 Solihull Moors
Droylsden 2-1 Alfreton Town
Gainsborough 0-1 Hinckley Utd
Gloucester 1-2 Stafford Rangers
Redditch 1-1 Workington
Stalybridge 0-0 Guiseley
Vauxhall Motors 1-2 Eastwood Town
Worcester 0-3 AFC Telford

Blue Square Bet South
Boreham Wood 1-0 Basingstoke
Braintree Town 1-1 St Albans
Dover 2-1 Dorchester
Eastleigh 1-4 Welling
Hampton & Richmond 0-0 Thurrock
Havant and W 4-1 Bishop's Cleeve
Lewes 1-5 Farnborough
Maidenhead Utd 1-2 Chelmsford
Staines Town 2-0 Dartford
Weston-S-Mare 3-2 Ebbsfleet United
Woking 1-0 Bromley

EPL

	P	GD	Pts
1 Man Utd	30	34	63
2 Arsenal	29	30	58
3 Man City	29	20	53
4 Chelsea	28	27	51
5 Tottenham	29	7	49
6 Liverpool	29	3	42
7 Bolton	30	1	40
8 Everton	30	1	40
9 Sunderland	29	-2	38
10 Stoke	30	-2	37
11 Newcastle	30	-1	36
12 Fulham	30	0	35
13 Blackburn	30	-12	33
14 Aston Villa	30	-14	33
15 Blackpool	30	-15	33
16 West Brom	30	-15	33
17 West Ham	30	-13	32
18 Wolves	30	-14	32
19 Birmingham	29	-13	31
20 Wigan	30	-22	30

Bundesliga

	P	GD	Pts
1 Borussia Dortmund	27	38	62
2 Bayer Leverkusen	26	20	52
3 Hannover 96	27	3	50
4 Bayern Munich	27	25	48
5 Mainz	27	8	44
6 Nuremberg	27	6	42
7 Hamburg	27	-1	40
8 SC Freiburg	27	-4	37
9 TSG Hoffenheim	27	3	36
10 Schalke 04	26	0	33
11 Cologne	27	-12	32
12 Werder Bremen	27	-16	32
13 FC Kaiserslautern	27	-7	31
14 Eintracht Frankfurt	27	-10	31
15 VfB Stuttgart	26	-3	28
16 St Pauli	27	-18	28
17 Wolfsburg	26	-9	26
18 Borussia M'gladbach	27	-23	23

Borussia Dortmund 1-1 Mainz
Eintracht Frankfurt 2-1 St Pauli
Hamburg 6-2 Cologne
Hannover 96 2-0 TSG Hoffenheim
Nuremberg 1-3 Werder Bremen
SC Freiburg 1-2 Bayern Munich
Borussia M'gladbach 0-1 Kaiserslautern

Serie A

	P	GD	Pts
1 AC Milan	30	29	62
2 Inter Milan	29	23	57
3 Napoli	29	18	56
4 Lazio	30	11	54
5 Udinese	29	24	53
6 Roma	29	6	49
7 Palermo	30	-1	43
8 Juventus	29	6	42
9 Fiorentina	29	4	40
10 Cagliari	29	1	39
11 Bologna	29	-4	39
12 Genoa	29	-4	38
13 Chievo	29	-3	32
14 Catania	29	-13	32
15 Sampdoria	29	-8	31
16 Cesena	30	-16	29
17 Parma	29	-13	29
18 Lecce	29	-20	28
19 Brescia	29	-13	26
20 Bari	29	-27	17

Lazio 1-0 Cesena
Palermo 1-0 AC Milan

Playing overnight
Fiorentina v Roma
Bari v Chievo
Bologna v Genoa
Inter Milan v Lecce
Juventus v Brescia
Udinese v Catania

Sampdoria v Parma
Napoli v Cagliari

SPL

	P	GD	Pts
1 Celtic	28	44	67
2 Rangers	27	36	65
3 Hearts	28	16	58
4 Dundee Utd	29	5	46
5 Kilmarnock	30	10	45
6 Motherwell	30	-9	37
7 Inverness CT	30	1	36
8 St Johnstone	29	-16	33
9 Hibernian	29	-14	32
10 Aberdeen	29	-16	31
11 St Mirren	29	-24	22
12 Hamilton	30	-33	16

La Liga

	P	GD	Pts
1 Barcelona	29	66	78
2 Real Madrid	29	48	73
3 Valencia	28	10	54
4 Villarreal	28	17	51
5 Espanyol	28	-2	43
6 Athletic Bilbao	28	4	42
7 Sevilla	28	-1	39
8 Atletico Madrid	29	3	39
9 Mallorca	29	-8	38
10 Real Sociedad	28	-8	35
11 Getafe	29	-6	34
12 Levante	28	-10	32
13 Osasuna	28	-3	32
14 Deportivo	28	-15	31
15 Racing	28	-16	30
16 Real Zaragoza	29	-12	30
17 Sporting Gijon	28	-9	29
18 Almeria	28	-17	26
19 Hercules	28	-18	26
20 Malaga	28	-23	26

Atletico Madrid 1-2 Real Madrid
Barcelona 2-1 Getafe
Mallorca 1-0 Real Zaragoza



V-League Premiership Title Up For Grabs

By Peter Parthimos

Fitzroy FC v Metropolitan FC

UPDATE: After def PVFC in a classic, 2010 Champions Fitzroy FC came out to face early title favorites Metropolitan FC. In a tight match were space was limited it was the Sky Blues who opened up the scoring through Avdic. Fitzroy FC defended well and attacked on the counter, but it wasn't to be as the experience campaigners of Metropolitan FC, managed well by Alija Redzepovic held their nerve and double their lead to end the Championships fairly tail.

Fitzroy FC 0 Metropolitan FC 3 in the end

FC Essendon v Nth Melbourne FC

UPDATE: Duel premiers Nth Melbourne FC had the hard task of taking on the 2009 Champs FC Essendon. Nth raced off to a 3 goal lead early on with a brilliant goal from the Giant Mirza Pedic, but just when you thought FC Essendon were history the Reds lifted with 3 goals of their own and managed to take the lead with Alexander The Great kicking 2. Nth Melbourne chipped away but it wasn't to be? FC Essendon run out eventual winners.

FC Essendon 7 Nth Melbourne FC 5

Pascoe Vale FC v Hume FC

UPDATE: Pascoe Vale FC v Hume FC in match of the round lived up to all the fuss. Pascoe Vale FC came out firing 2 nil up, Hume answered and it was game on. It was a tough game to officiate with many lineball calls dividing onlookers which added to the drama. 4 a piece in the end a neutrals match a true spectator's delight. After winning 16 straight Pascoe Vale has only 1 point from 6 to show in the last 2 rounds. The premiership is still alive.

Pascoe Vale FC 4 Hume FC 4

FC Collingwood v Ashburton FC

UPDATE: FC Collingwood looking to get off the bottom of the ladder faced Luciano Bessa's Green Machine Ashburton FC. With "The Mercurial One" James Blackburn back in the fray Ashburton FC looked threatening, but FC Collingwood never gave up and hit the front with Cameron Holmes the architect. At 5 fouls FC Collingwood looked shaky. Enter James Blackburn from the far spot, slotting in a cool 3 goals to end Collingwood's night.

FC Collingwood 3 Ashburton FC 5



Spectators delight as another classic match unfolds in the race to the title



Match of the round action Hume FC v Pascoe Vale FC



CF Brunswick's No. 1 Brendan Chen has been solid since moving across from FC Essendon

CF Brunswick v Brimbank FC

UPDATE: Brimbank FC in 11th spot secure 3 valuable points to keep their distance from FC Colloingwood 12th spot with 3 rounds remaining. On the other hand CF Brunswick in 10th spot who look unlikely to end up last had a frustrating night with over 20 attempts on goal and only the 1 goal to show were easerly defeated in the end by Kablar's Brimbank FC. With only 3 rounds remaining every single point is gold, Jason Barrientos was supurb with 3 goals setting up a show down and a memorable finish to the 2010-11 season.

CF Brunswick 1 Brimbank FC 6

FC Prahran v Mickleham re-scheduled



Jason Barrientos a key figure to Brimbank's survival with 14 goals in 8 games

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V-League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Pascoe Vale FC	18	16	1	1	152	61	91	49
2 Metropolitan FC	19	14	1	4	155	80	75	44
3 Nth Melbourne FC	18	13	0	5	103	67	36	39
4 Ashburton FC	19	12	2	5	114	97	17	38
5 Hume FC	19	10	3	6	103	83	20	33
6 Fitzroy FC	19	8	2	9	83	108	-25	26
7 FC Essendon	19	7	3	9	103	123	-20	24
8 FC Prahran	18	6	0	12	80	114	-34	18
9 Mickleham FC	18	5	2	11	105	111	-6	17
10 CF Brunswick	19	5	1	13	79	122	-43	16
11 Brimbank FC	19	5	0	14	71	109	-38	15
12 FC Collingwood	19	3	1	15	61	134	-73	10

Round 19 Results Wed March 16th

•TBA FC Prahran v Mickleham FC RE-SCHEDULED	
•7:15 Fitzroy FC v Metropolitan FC	0 - 3
•8:00 FC Essendon v Nth Melbourne FC	7 - 5
•8:45 Pascoe Vale FC v Hume FC	4 - 4
•9:30 FC Collingwood v Ashburton FC	3 - 5
•10:15 CF Brunswick v Brimbank FC	1 - 6

Round 20 Clashes Wed March 23rd

•6:30 FC Essendon v Brimbank FC	
•7:15 FC Collingwood v CF Brunswick	
•8:00 Pascoe Vale FC v Metropolitan FC TBA	
•8:45 Fitzroy FC v Nth Melbourne FC	
•9:30 FC Prahran v Ashburton FC	
•10:15 Hume FC v Mickleham FC	

State League Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 FC Melbourne	17	15	0	2	84	48	36	45
2 FC Balwyn	16	10	2	4	114	75	39	32
3 FC Footscray	17	9	1	7	100	76	24	28
4 Elsternwick FC	16	9	1	6	95	84	11	28
5 Albert Park FC	17	8	1	8	101	103	-2	25
6 FC Geelong	17	7	0	10	77	78	-1	21
7 FC Carlton	17	6	1	10	91	100	-9	19
8 Melb Uni FC	17	6	0	11	68	103	-35	18
9 Doncaster FC	15	5	0	10	85	112	-35	18
10 Bentleigh FC	17	5	0	12	92	128	-36	15

State League Championship Season Round 17 Sun Mar 13th

•7:40 FC Geelong v FC Balwyn	7 - 5
•8:20 Melb Uni FC v FC Melbourne	2 - 3
•9:00 FC Footscray v Albert Park FC	5 - 7
•9:40 FC Carlton v Bentleigh FC	3 - 11
•10:20 Elsternwick FC v Doncaster FC	5 - 10

State League Championship Season Round 18 Sun Mar 20th

•7:40 FC Footscray v Doncaster FC	
•8:20 FC Melbourne v Albert Park FC	
•9:00 FC Geelong v Bentleigh FC	
•9:40 Melb Uni FC v FC Balwyn	
•10:20 FC Carlton v Elsternwick FC	

State League Top Scorers

1. Rob Zadworny FCB	43 goals
2. Peter Kratki EFC	41 goals
3. Matt Italiano FCB	30 goals

Photos By
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OAKLEIGH CANNONS

1

SOUTH MELBOURNE

2

Match Details

Oakleigh Cannons
Peter ZOIS, Rama TAVSAN-CIOGLU, James CUM-MING, Anthony BRAN, Luke WALKER, Frankie LAGANA, James ROBINSON, Stephen HATZIKOSTAS, Dane MILOVANOVIC, Bonel OBRADOVIC, Ricky DIACO

Subs: Bill DAMIANOS, Daniel NEESHAM, Melvin BECKET, Aristidis DRAKOS, Craig GOODWIN

Goal: Diaco 13'

South Melbourne FC
21. Zaim ZENELLI. 17. Ljubo MILICEVIC, 3. Rhodri PAYNE, 4. Steven O'DOR, 5. Daniel VASILEVSKI (33. Bobby RUSSELL), 6. Steven TOPALOVIC, 8. Carl RECHIA, 11. Jesse KRNEVIC, 15. Fernando DE MORAES (14. Kamal IBRAHIM), 18. Marinos GASPARIS (29. Leigh MINOPOULOS), 23. Sebastian PETROVIC

Goals: Gasparis 3', O'Dor 58'.

Man of the Match:
Steven O'Dor
South Melb

Crowd: 2500
Venue: Jack Edwards Reserve

O'Dor Delivers Derby Delight

By Rory Flanagan

South Melbourne handed Oakleigh Cannons their first loss of the 2011 AVPL season with a 2-1 derby victory at Jack Edwards reserve on Friday night. Steven O'Dor headed home the winner on 58minutes to give his side all three points.

Former Socceroo Ljubo Milicevic made his debut after his paperwork was finally processed and partnered Steven O'Dor at the heart of the defence. Zaim Zanelli played in his first full game after replacing the injured Stefaan Sardelic last week off the bench.

Oakleigh named an unchanged line-up from their 3-1 triumph at Bentleigh last week.

The visitors only had to wait 3 minutes for a breakthrough. Marinos Gasparis raced onto a bouncing ball behind the Oakleigh defence before hammering a volley past ex-South goalkeeper Peter Zois.

The lead was short-lived however, as Oakleigh hit back ten minutes later after South conceded a needless free kick on the edge of the area. Ricky Diaco stepped up and fired a low free kick under the wall and into the bottom corner for the big man's second goal of the season.

With 18 minutes played, AVPL Gold Medal winner from last season Fernando De Moraes fancied his luck from a set piece 30yards out. Zois reacted well to tip the curling strike over the bar. Both sides maintained their shape and played cautiously, wary of each other's ability to cause problems. However, South did manage to string together a very neat passage of play on 25 minutes, with the only mistake being the over-hit final pass for Jesse Krncevic.

Sebastian Petrovic was deservedly booked for a crude challenge on the halfway line with half an hour played, despite the moans emanating from the noisy South fans.

Stephen Hatzikostas played the ball into the path of Dane Milo-

vanovic who struck a first time effort from the edge of the area.

The shot took a wicked deflection before bouncing back off the upright with Zanelli completely stranded.

A free kick from the subsequent passage of play found the head of Milovanovic only 4 yards out, but he couldn't keep his header down.

Steven Topalovic cleverly jinked past his man on the 'D' outside the box before lashing a speculative volley at goal which sailed wide of the target. Topalovic was pushed out wide to right back following the inclusion of Ljubo Milicevic.

The two sides remained level at the interval after a tentative first half of football. Probably wasn't the fiercest or most entertaining of Derbies, but the game did open up a little in the second stanza as players began to tire.

Frankie Lagana gave everything to save a ball from crossing the touchline in his side's attacking third and managed to deliver a cross onto the forehead of Ricky Diaco, but the target man sent his header over.

South regained the lead through captain and standout performer O'Dor on 57 minutes. De Moraes delivered a sublime free kick from the left flank that O'Dor met and thumped a header past Zois, triggering ecstasy amongst the South fans.

Arthur Papas threw on an attacking midfielder in place of a defensive midfielder with Billy Damianos replacing Luke Walker.

The away side playing in their all white strip should have extended their lead with twenty minutes remaining. Marinos Gasparis earlier made the difficult look easy with his stunning volley, but when left with a simple tap in to an empty net, he incredibly blazed over the bar.

Milovanovic nearly made Gasparis pay for his glaring miss when he again managed to get his head on the ball from a Lagana free kick, but just as he did pre-



South Melbourne are delirious after Marinos Gasparis opens the scoring. Photo: ANITA MILAS



South celebrate Steven O'Dor's match winner. Photo: ANITA MILAS

viously, his header flew over and onto the roof of the net.

When called upon, Milicevic looked confident and in control despite being a tad off tempo but as he regains full match fitness, the South backline will begin to shape as a formidable one with arguably their most important player partnering their biggest

name signing.

As time began to run out, Oakleigh had one final chance. Stephen Hatzikostas maintained his average of one nutmeg per game with Rhodri Payne his victim. Hatzikostas darted forward towards the by-line before whipping in a fantastic cross, headed inches wide by Lagana.

Speaking to SMTV the forthright Milicevic was dismissive of Oakleigh's play: "they barely had a shot on goal; everything they created was pure luck"

South Melbourne's next match is a derby at home against the Melbourne Knights at John Cain Memorial Park, while Oakleigh travel to Heidelberg.



Ricky Diaco points the way forward for the Cannons after scoring from a free-kick . Photo: ANITA MILAS



So many hands for so many different reasons. Steve O'Dor reels away after handing (and heading) South Melbourne all three points. Photo: ANITA MILAS

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS



4

BENTLEIGH GREENS



0

Match Details

Match Stats

SHOTS: MK 15 BG: 2

TARGET: MK 8 BG 1

CORNERS: MK 2 BG 3

Melbourne Knights Line Up: John, Filipovic, Surey, Shin (Saglam 71'), Magdic (Yusuf 86'), A. Colosimo, Zilic (Franjic 83'), Kozic, Dubios, Dragicevic, Sweeney.

Not Used: A. Romein, J. Colosimo.
Yellow Cards: Dubios 52'
Goals: Dragicevic 8' A. Colosimo 77' Yusuf 89' 90'.

Bentleigh Greens Line Up: Kennedy, Mathews, Laurie, Downes, Wallace, McLlroy (Fadjevic 68'), Doyle, Bulloch, Webster (Smart 68'), Wilford, Nicholson (McGarry 77').

Not Used: Gavalas, Bounas
Yellow Cards: Mathews 55'.

MoM: Craig Sweeney (MK)
Crowd: Approx 700 @ Knights Stadium.

Knights put Bentleigh to the sword

By Andrew Fisher

An emphatic four goal demolition of the Bentleigh Greens and seen the Melbourne Knights rocket into the top five of the Alanic Victorian Premier league.

The home side produced by far their best performance of the season, dominating from the first whistle to last and perhaps unlucky not to have put several more goals past a deflated and lacklustre Bentleigh outfit.

Ivan Duzel was forced to make two changes to his side, with Junior De Camago and Mathieu Belmont injured, Adam Zilic and Craig Sweeney were called up to form a makeshift Knights defence.

The Knights could and should have opened the scored barely 45 seconds into the match, Anthony Colosimo's strike from outside the box was well trapped by Josip Magdic, with all the time in the world, Magdic wastefully blasted his shot over the bar.

However Magdic made up for his miss on soon after, by supplying a defence splitting pass to Daniel Dragicevic, who managed to round Kennedy in the visitor's goal and finish into the

open net to give the Knights a 8th minute lead.

In the 18th minute Josip Kozic fed the ball to Dragicevic on the edge of the box, with some quick footwork the striker turned his marker and unleashed a left foot strike that beat the keeper but not the crossbar.

Just minutes later, Colosimo delivered a telling cross from deep that was met by the head of a diving Magdic, Kennedy was left flat-footed and was grateful to see the header clip the outside of the upright and go wide.

The pace of Dragicevic was causing the visitors plenty of headaches, and in the 33rd minute he was once again able to get past the Bentleigh defence, cutting in from the by-line Dragicevic looked to have set up Jean Dubios with the easiest of goals had it not been for some desperate defending from Laurie to block the shot and keep the Greens in the match.

Bentleigh could have made the Knights pay for not taking their chances late in the half, when a poor clearance from the Knights defence fell to the feet of Nicholson in the six yard box who just couldn't get his shot away in time.

Their was still time for another chance for the home side to double their lead, as Dubios set up Magdic who saw his shot from inside the six yard box blocked, the rebound falling to Leo Shin who also saw his shot from a similar position blocked on the line, leaving the home side and their fans pondering how this game wasn't already over.

Bentleigh coach Andy O'Dell opted to play just the three in the back in the second half, however they still resorted to playing long balls which were easily dealt with the Knights defence, in particular Craig Sweeney who was playing in an unfamiliar centre back role.

The Knights were finally able to kill the game off in the 77th minute, A deep cross from Dubios was headed across goal from Dragicevic and into the path of Anthony Colosimo to nod home from close range.

With the game seemingly over as a contest, Ivan Duzel threw on Yusuf Yusuf for the last 5mins, and the substitution was an inspired one. Yusuf was on hand to finish from close range after Kennedy could only parry Dubios shot into the past of the striker.



Knights' Daniel Dragicevic slots one home past the outstretched hand of Steve Laurie. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

There was still time for Yusuf to grab a double, as Dragicevic's cross was glanced on by the striker, leaving Kennedy once again flat-footed who could only watch the header hit the inside of the post and into the back of the net.

The win sees the Knights leapfrog the Greens and move into the top five, next

week they face their toughest test of the season thus far when they take on South Melbourne at John Cain Memorial reserve on Sunday evening, whilst Bentleigh will look to return to the winners list when they host bottom of the ladder St Albans on Friday night.



Bentleigh's Jack Webster bravely goes into battle using his head. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Greens keeper Kile Kennedy shows a safe pair of hands on this occasion as Jean Charles Dubois gets a piggy-back Steve Laurie. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



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RICHMOND EAGLES

2

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS

1

Match Details

Richmond: S.Gal, A.Viola, E.Karahan, M.Bissinger (M.Eterovic 80'), D.Tsiaras (S.Wilson 75'), T.Purcell, M.Catalano, C.O'Hare (S.Sivic 87'), J.Hoffman, A.Kovacic, M.Ferrante.

Goals: Hoffman 17' 47'

Yellow Cards: None

Red Cards: None

Green Gully: N.Roganovic, D.Jones, C.Drake (J.Munoz 57'), J.Fleming, J.Hayne, B.Fisher (H.Basma 75'), G.Hockless, M.Sanders (P.Vizzari 67'), R.Ollerton, M.Medjedovic, A.Vargas.

Goal: Drake 56'

Yellow Cards: None

Red Cards: None

Man of the Match: Jason Hoffman (Richmond)

Venue: Kevin Bartlett Reserv

Crowd: 300

Eagles Land First Win of the Season In GF Replay

By Mark Boric

The Grand Finalists of 2010 met at Kevin Bartlett Reserve on Sunday both far removed from the heights of the previous season.

Victors Green Gully were sitting ninth on the table, with just one win from their first four games. The Eagles were sitting bottom of the table, and still winless in the new campaign. After a heavy 5-2 defeat at Northcote City, Richmond welcomed back Jason Hoffman from injury. Andrew Viola also returned to the starting line-up, with Ross Antoniadis missing through injury. Green Gully were fielding an unchanged line-up from their win over St Albans the previous week. From the team which defeated Richmond 3-0 in the Grand Final, the only change was Ryan Ollerton in for the departed Steve Burton.

The best chance early in the game fell to Green Gully, as the ball was delivered to Ryan Ollerton overlapping on the right who crossed into the box where Mitch Bissinger dived to head it away, the ball instead heading goal-wards but straight into the arms of Stjepan Gal. Richmond, however, were putting in an improved performance, and in the fourteenth minute they were able to take the lead. A ball into Michael Catalano was flicked out high to the left where Erhan Karahan played it to the feet of Chris O'Hare. O'Hare then laid it off well to Hoffman, who opened his goalscoring account for the Eagles with an impressive finish.

A foul on Timmy Purcell earned Richmond a free-kick which Michael Ferrante sent to a free Antun Kovacic beyond the far post. Kovacic drilled the ball towards the near post where O'Hare was held up trying to make an opening on goal, eventually having a shot blocked and cleared.

O'Hare was in the action again soon after, picking himself up after being brought down in a tackle outside the area and beating a man before being brought down again inside the box, but he went down too easily in the opinion of referee Bruno D'Aniello who dismissed the shout for a penalty.

On the half hour mark Graham Hockless shot wide from thirty yards. The game was still a tight affair, with the pace slowing down as the unexpected early Autumn heat began to take it's toll. When half-time arrived Richmond maintained their 1-0 advantage.

Two minutes after play resumed, Richmond doubled their lead. An exquisite ball from Kovacic over the top of the Green Gully defence saw him find his former Newcastle Jets teammate Hoffman who beat the attempted offside trap. Though he had time to bring the high bouncing ball under control with the Gully defenders and keeper at a standstill, Hoffman coolly chipped the ball over the stranded Roganovic to notch his second goal of the afternoon.

An inspired Richmond could have had a third, when Catalano managed to poke the ball out to Karahan after going down under



Richmond's Dimi Tsiaras, backed up by Antun Kovacic, stops Gully's Brent Fisher in his tracks. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

a tackle. Karahan drove the ball low and hard to the far past, just ahead of his onrushing teammates.

In the fifty-sixth minute the reigning AVPL champions pulled a goal back following a free-kick. The ball fell to ground at the far post, and though Richmond managed to get bodies back behind it, the ball fell to Cameron Drake after a shot was blocked and he was able to slam it through the crowded six yard box and into the back of the net to re-ignite the game.

From a corner kick Kovacic headed wide, and then a chipped ball by O'Hare found Catalano in the middle of the box but he was held up well by Mile Medjedovic and had his shot blocked. Gal claimed a couple of crosses under pressure, but even as the Eagles became a little nervous towards the finish with their first win of the season in sight, the Cavaliers failed to seriously threaten the Richmond goal.

With three minutes remaining O'Hare made way for Semir Sivic, who returned to competitive

senior football for the first time since breaking his leg against Heidelberg United back in July 2008. It made for a memorable day for Richmond, as the final whistle soon signalled their first win of the 2011 AVPL season.

Richmond will be now looking to establish some momentum up the league table, and next face Springvale White Eagles at White Eagles Stadium on Friday night. Green Gully will be hosting Hume City and Green Gully Reserve on Saturday.



Richmond's Antun Kovacic (left) and Gully's Brent Fisher battle for the ball. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Mile Medjedovic (Green Gully) tries to lose Richmond's two goal hero Jason Hoffman. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

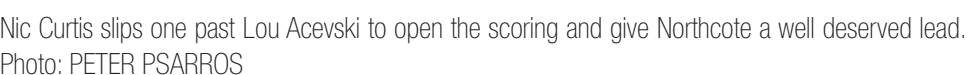
Rusty Hume Holds On As Blues Throw Kitchen Sink At Acevski

Crowd 600 people
Man of Match: Louie Acevski

Northcote should have taken the lead late on in the first half, as first James Kalafatis and then Curtis were both guilty of missing one on one chances.

Hume coach Andy Vlahos said after the game, “ We were delighted with the win, but to be honest we were a bit rusty. We’ve got a few injuries at the moment as well, so to get the three points when we haven’t even hit our straps yet

I'm just glad that under the circumstances we're still picking up points and in touch with the front runners while we try and get some momentum going."



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ST ALBANS SAINTS



3

SPRINGVALE W EAGLES



3

Match Details

Venue: Churchill Reserve
Crowd: 750
Man of the match: Daniel Visevic

ST ALBANS LINE UP

20. Ante LONCARIC, 23. Tommy MILARDOVIC, 19. Michael GRGIC, 6. Alan PALEKA, 5. Brian CHES-SON, 8. Liam CANNELL, 18. Stefan PIORKOWSKI, 14. Mark PALEKA, 7. Goran JOZELJIC (21. Martin HANA 72'), 9. Josip LONCARIC, 17. Daniel VISEVIC.

Un-used subs: 1. Steven PAVLOVIC, 13. Dario LA-SIC, 3. Stefan JESENSEK, 22. Mustafa ALIBEYI

SPRINGVALE LINE-UP

23. Scott AGUSTIN, 2. Adam EWIN, 4. Boris BAJIC, 7. Tome RACUNA (11. Rados TOMIC 68'), 8 Gordan MRDIC (24. Lewis KARANICOLAS 46'), 9. Milos LUJIC, 12. Du-shan NIKOLIC, 16. Dominic D'ANGELO (22. Andres JEREZ 46'), 17. Zoran VU-KAS, 18. Nikola VELJOVIC, 19. Goran ZORIC

Weagles Swoop To Snatch Late Draw

By Mark Ivkovic

THE St Albans Saints have thrown away a golden chance to snare their first win of the season as the Springvale White Eagles grabbed a late equaliser in a pulsating game that ended in a 3-3 draw on Sunday afternoon at Churchill Reserve.

Both sides came into this crunch match game needing all 3 points to kick start their stuttering seasons.

And before a blink of the eye the visitors took a shock early lead within the opening minute.

Goran Mrdic's ball onto the edge of the area found Milos Lujic, who produced a magnificent headed effort that cannoned past an outstretched Ante Loncaric however it rebounded of the underside of the cross-bar and appeared to have crossed the line but Goran Zoric made sure of the goal when he tucked away the loose ball.

The visitors couldn't believe their luck as they appeared to have set up defensively in the hope of stealing a point. You could hear a pin drop around the packed terraces at Churchill Reserve as this was the last thing that the doctor would have ordered for a team already low on confidence.

However the Saints managed to lift themselves up fairly quickly as they pushed forward in search of a quick equaliser.

A fantastic ball in from Saints playmaker, Daniel Visevic found an unmarked Alan Paleka at the far post and his great strike found it's way past Scott Agustin to put St. Albans back on level terms after only 10 minutes on the clock.

However the home side's joy



Rados Tomic finishes off a neat move to grab a share of the spoils for the visiting Eagles. Photos: STEVE STAREK

was short lived as Springvale was awarded a penalty 5 minutes later when Goran Zoric made his way into the area and was brought down by Tommy Milardovic.

Up stepped Zoran Vukas to the penalty spot and his nervously hit effort crept inside the far post however referee Matthew Evans ordered a re-take for encroachment from a number of Springvale players. However Vukas put the ball in exactly the same spot and handed his side the lead again after only 15 minutes.

The game started to spice up with crunching tackles being laid left, right and centre as both sides looked to take control of the game.

Just as it seemed as though Springvale were cruising, a disastrous defensive mix up allowed Goran Jozeljic to steal the ball off Boris Bajic and easily slot past Agustin to make it 2 goals a piece after 25 minutes.

That goal seemed to finally spark the Saints back into action as they started to dominate the proceedings from

there on in.

A great ball in from Piorkowski found an unmarked Cannell at the back post but with no-one to beat the Saints midfielder could only hit the woodwork.

The Saints should have taken the lead on the stroke of half-time as Daniel Visevic unleashed a phenomenal effort from over 40 yards outside the area that rattled past Agustin however to everyone's dismay the ball cannoned off the bar and denied what no doubt would have been the goal of the season.

St. Albans got off to a slow and scrappy start to second half as a defensive area from Milardovic allowed Dushan Nikolic through on goal and with seemingly only Ante Loncaric to beat a desperate lunge out of nowhere from youngster Michael Grgic saved the day for the Saints.

The 18 year old defender was having a superb game in only his second start in the Alanic Victorian Premier League as he was keeping Springvale danger man, Milos Lujic out

of the game.

As the Saints continued to stamp their authority on the game they were finally rewarded for the endeavors going forward.

Yet another superb through ball from Visevic, who was finally showing his true quality on the ball put in Josip Loncaric with only the keeper to beat and the Saints stand in skipper put his side in the lead with a neat finish under pressure after 65 minutes.

Springvale attempted to push forward in search of an equaliser as they threw extra men up forward but the Saints defence marshaled by Milardovic were having a great game.

With only 5 minutes left on the clock some great build up saw Josip Loncaric through on goal and he was brought down by a clumsy challenge from Adam Ewin to hand the Saints a chance to clinch all 3 points.

However Josip Loncaric's poorly hit penalty was spilled by Scott Agustin and Loncaric's disastrous follow up effort was inexcusably missed from 2 yards out as he skied the ball

well over the bar.

Two minutes later and a fantastic pass from Visevic set up Martin Hana with only Agustin to beat but the Saints strikers effort was well saved from Agustin and Liam Cannell again missed a golden chance to seal the points for St. Albans after he missed the rebound.

Then with only seconds to play Springvale pushed forward for one last attack and it was the substitutes that combined to grab the visitors a last gasp equaliser.

Andres Jerez broke free down the left hand side and sent it a fantastic ball to the far post where Rados Tomic was left unmarked and easily finished to grab his side a point.

The referee blew the final whistle moments later to end the fierce battle between these two sides.

The Saints now face a quick turn around as they head to Kingston Heath Reserve on Friday night to take on the Bentleigh Greens.



Mark Paleka tries to keep his composure whilst being held by Rados Tomic. Photo: STEVE STAREK



Alan Paleka connects with a great strike to equalise for the Saints. Photo: STEVE STAREK

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